

Hafa Adai!

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Research team presents Northern Islands findings. **PAGE 6**

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75¢

DPS: Speed a factor in crash

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 19-year-old woman who was killed in a car crash last Saturday was driving at a high rate of speed, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

Acting DPS spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong said that preliminary police investigation revealed speed as a definite factor in the crash.

Besides that statement, Tarkong said "the case is currently under investigation."

Preliminary investigation showed

See DPS on Page 4

AFTER PARTIES REACHED RESOLUTION

Beijing Air drops suit vs CPA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The company that operates Beijing Airlines voluntarily dropped its suit yesterday against the Commonwealth Ports Authority and its executive director, Christopher S. Tenorio.

Beijing Capital Airlines Co. Ltd., through its lawyer, Daniel T. Guidotti, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss its lawsuit without prejudice, which means it may re-file the case in the future.

The motion for the dismissal of the lawsuit did not provide details.

At a conference on Friday before U.S. District Court for the NMI magistrate judge Heather L. Kennedy, Guidotti told the court that the parties have reached a resolution and will be filing a stipulation to dismiss the case.

Attorney Robert T. Torres represented Beijing Capital Airlines Co. Ltd. **See BEIJING on Page 4**

Tinian mayor marries 1st LGBT couple

Just as Madrid, Spain was getting ready to host WorldPride this week, Tinian unintentionally jumped the gun by marrying its first gay couple.

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas officiated his first gay marriage last Saturday, June 24, 2017, at 6:30pm at the Tinian Kammer Beach main pavilion, during

which he performed marriage rites for Jonathan C. San Nicolas and Raymond B. Sablan.

The mayor was joined at the ceremony by the couple's family and friends in a very intimate ceremony on the shores of Tinian's Kammer Beach.

San Nicolas expressed appreciation and honor to have been asked

See TINIAN on Page 4

NEW WATER TANK

The giant crane at the back of the Northern Marianas College campus is a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. project to replace the old steel tank with a concrete one. According to those at the site, "what you see right now are just the forms." The project is set to finish in October 2017 and the new tank is projected to contain 1 million gallons of water.

BEA CABRERA



From left, Connie San Nicolas, Jonathan C. San Nicolas, Raymond B. Sablan, and Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. files for bankruptcy protection.

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ASIA

ISIS helped fund the siege of Marawi through a Malaysian militant.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Baby Driver" may be the one to finally push Edgar Wright's distinctive appeal.

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Local

June 26 to July 1 is Young Professionals Week

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The week of June 26 to July 1 is Young Professional's Week in the CNMI.

Senate President Arnold Palacios, who is currently the acting governor, signed yesterday a proclamation declaring Young Professional's Week in the CNMI at the office of Bridge Capital LLC.

The proclamation recognizes young professionals as integral to the CNMI workforce and their role as the economic, social and cultural future of the Commonwealth.

Yesterday's signing was attended by Bridge Capital officers and the directors and members of the Marianas Young Professionals, a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that is composed mostly of young professionals.

MYPros president Matt Deleon Guerrero said the proclamation "gets it out there that young professionals are important members of society and the community and that there is a group of dedicated young folks that want to do



MYPros members and Bridge Capital employees pose with acting governor Arnold Palacios after the signing of a proclamation making the week of June 26 to July 1, 2017, Young Professional's Week

good and be able to contribute to the community and be able to network."

MYPros was established two years ago.

"Bo Palacios and I got together after being inspired by a group out of Guam. We wanted to start something on Saipan," said Nola Hix, vice president and MyPROS co-

founder.

Palacios is hopeful that young professionals will help build the CNMI. "Our community is hopeful and expecting a lot from young professionals. Your role and your contribution will be defined for the betterment of the community."

The week will have events

for young professionals in the community.

"Our goal is to connect the young professionals in the community so they can advance civically, socially and professionally so they can be better set to take on roles in the future. We invite who's interested to join in some of the events and hopefully gain

something from it," Deleon Guerrero said.

The activities during the Young Professional's Weeks are as follows:

■ June 27, 6pm-9pm: MY-Pros Adulting 101: Personal finance mixer at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Chambre Bar

■ June 28, 9am-3pm: Bank of Guam's small business sem-

inar at Saipan World's Resort

■ June 29, 6pm-9pm: MY-Pros small business happy hour at Bubba Gump's private room,

■ June 30, 6pm-9pm: MY-Pros dunking booth fundraiser at the 2017 Liberation Ggrounds

■ July 1, 6pm-10pm: MY-Pros "White Gala" at the Surf Club Saipan

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96 surviving shearwater chicks on Managaha

Over a decade ago, the Division of Fish and Wildlife began efforts to rehabilitate the nesting sites for the wedge-tail shearwater birds on Managaha. That effort has produced a remarkable survival rate for the birds.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that in 2014, a total of 86 young wedge-tail birds hatched on Managaha.

"And now, three years later, the number continues to increase," he said.

Torres pointed out that Saipan represents only a fraction of the variety of bird and plant species in the Commonwealth.

"I want to continue emphasizing that expanding conservation efforts of our

DOJ seeks help from Bangladesh to obtain bank, business records

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government is seeking help from Bangladesh to obtain the bank and business records of one of six suspects in a fake jobs scam.

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto disclosed in documents filed in federal court last week that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs has prepared a letter addressed to family members and relatives in Bangladesh of one of the suspects.

Benedetto said that key to the scheme to defraud was the collection of large amounts of money—roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000—from each of the 12 victims in the case. The vast majority of those payments allegedly occurred in Bangladesh.

Muksedur Rahman and his co-schemers allegedly instructed the victims to make payments to Rahman's vari-

Man in traffic violator stop flees

A 22-year-old man who was pulled over for a traffic violation fled, nearly running over another officer.

Manuel Weilbacher Norita was served with an arrest warrant on Friday afternoon in Kagman III on charges of obstructing justice, assault with a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, and fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. His bail was kept yesterday at \$15,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 7 at 9am. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as his lawyer.

Police said that patrol officer Joannalyn Laniyo was along Isa Drive and passing by the Kagman Mobil traffic signal light on Tuesday at 8:44pm when she noticed

lands and waters is important and the success of these strategies is increasingly evident. Lasting efforts do work over time and we must continue to look at all our resources to strengthen this upward trend," Torres said.

According to acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Anthony Benavente, the wedge-tail shearwater is cousin to the albatross and has a dark-brown or gray-brown top, with a white underside, making it one of the rarest species on Saipan.

"We've monitored 170 active nests which produced 96 surviving chicks—the highest total to date since the project began. Now we

ous relatives and in-laws who lived in that country.

Benedetto said some of the payments were made in cash directly to a co-schemer of Rahman, and some were deposited directly into the accounts of his family members and in-laws.

Benedetto said witnesses who were present when the payments were made will corroborate the cash payments, and business records will corroborate the payments deposited into the bank accounts of Rahman's family members.

Benedetto said the records will be produced in discovery as soon as they are received by the U.S. government.

The superseding indictment charged the defendants with 17 counts such as mail fraud, fraud in foreign labor contracting, and fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

The defendants pleaded not guilty of the charges.

Jury trial will be on Aug. 1, 2017.

a pickup truck running a red light while making a left turn toward Kagman Road.

Laniyo initiated a traffic violator stop. As she was writing a traffic citation near the back of Norita's car, Norita reversed, almost colliding with the patrol car.

Lt. Anthony Macaranas arrived to assist Laniyo. He approached Norita's truck and repeatedly hit the driver side window and shouted at Norita to stop the vehicle. Norita continued to back up, nearly running over Macaranas. He then fled the scene.

Another police officer pursued Norita, who proceeded to his house in Kagman. Several other officers arrived at the house. Norita was later arrested. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Photo shows a wedgetail conservation trail on Managaha.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

see these birds growing up to more than one foot long with a wingspan of over three feet, spending most of their time away from land and returning only to breed," he said.

He noted that the colony on Managaha was confirmed in 2000 and is the only known nesting site in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"DFW's conservation efforts have been very fruitful and our bird species continues on an upswing. With regular monitoring and community outreach, we are pleased with the results and will continue to apply these strategies throughout our other programs," he said. (PR)



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Alleged sex abuse victim testifies in trial of ex-cop

A 14-year-old girl testified yesterday in the jury trial of former Rota police officer

Melvin Maratita Manglona, who is facing charges that he sexually abused her.

The girl will resume her testimony today, Tuesday, at 8:30am, at the Rota Court-

house, *Saipan Tribune* learned. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

was able to impanel eight jurors, including two alternates, yesterday at noon.

The alleged victim is the government's first witness. Chief Prosecutor Michelle Harris and assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio are prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Brien Sers Nicholas is counsel for the 49-year-old Manglona.

The jury will decide on

two counts of sexual abuse in first degree. Camacho will decide the disturbing the peace charge.

The OAG alleged that Manglona sexually abused the girl last July and Aug. 11, 2016, on Rota. The girl allegedly told police that the defendant has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 years old. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Monthly cleanup yield 680 lbs

PDM Promoters, Inc. ditched its regular Saturday cleanup of the environs around Paseo de Marianas for a Thursday cleanup last June 22 and the activity yielded 680 lbs.

Cleanup coordinator Sonia Siwa said they did the cleanup on a Thursday because it was summer break and members of the Saipan Awaodori have no classes.

"Instead of doing it on Saturday, we did it on Thursday as the kids had their free time," she said.

In all, a total of 25 members of the Saipan Awaodori team joined seven Kinpachi Restaurant staff during the cleanup, which happened from 9am to 11am last Thursday.

The garbage they picked up consisted of plastic water bottles, Styrofoam containers, cigarette butts, plastic straws, beer cans,

and glass bottles.

"We did mostly roadside cleanup and taking out trash that was clogging the drainage," added Siwa.

Siwa also thanked the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for once again helping PDM Promot-

ers by waiving the fee for trash disposal.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are regularly held every Sunday and are supported by BECQ and the non-profit's major sponsors T Galleria and TSL Foundation.

Siwa said T Galleria and

TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed on their monthly cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks for the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in July for their seventh monthly cleanup this year. **(Saipan Tribune)**



Members of the Saipan Awaodori team join seven Kinpachi Restaurant staff for PDM Promoters, Inc.'s cleanup of the environs around Paseo de Marianas last Thursday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CPUC seats to be filled

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reviving the moribund Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission by filling up its vacant board member seats is already in the pipeline.

The CPUC is the governing body that regulates the rates and services of public utilities such as electricity supply, water supply, and telecommunications. The commission is also responsible in ensuring the public that utilities offer safe and reliable services.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. falls under its ju-

risdiction because the corporation provides the CNMI's electricity and water supply.

By law, the CPUC is required to have five board members to complete a team that would be in charge of overseeing the operations, finances and projects of all utility firms in the Commonwealth.

Three board members will be from Saipan, one member will be from Tinian, and one member will be from Rota. There is currently one active CPUC member whose tenure is expiring soon.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

is now in the process of getting qualified persons on the CPUC board and is conducting vetting procedures to make sure the board is composed of the right people.

Concurrently, organizing the board members for CUC is also in the governor's crosshairs.

In a letter dated June 21, 2017, to the Legislature, Torres nominated James Diego Benavente to serve as a CPUC board member, representing Saipan.

Benavente has a bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

He is currently working at the Bureau of Environmental

& Coastal Quality where he provides technical and engineering support in reviewing permit applications and conducts performance testing and certification in the wastewater and erosion field.

His appointment to the CPUC board requires the confirmation of both the Senate and House of Representatives. If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term, which became vacant on May 24, 2016, and will expire on May 24, 2020.

The governor's appointment of Benavente to a CPUC seat was released two days before Torres left Friday morning to attend the 2017 Western Governor's Association Annual meeting in Montana.

DPS

From Page 1

that Su Min Jung was going eastbound on As Terlaje Hill aboard a beige 2013 Hyundai Tucson.

The vehicle, a five-door wagon, ran off the road to the right and collided with the Northern Marianas College's retaining wall. The vehicle then went straight toward the concrete traffic light pole at the eastern shoulder of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and intersection

of Tun Antonio Apa Road.

Tarkong said the vehicle sustained extensive damage from the impact and the fire.

He said that Jung was lifeless when recovered from the driver's seat.

He said police responded on Saturday at 12:46am to the scene. When they arrived, they saw the front half of the Hyundai Tucson was resting up against the traffic light and was engulfed in flames.

Witnesses told police that there was an occupant trapped inside the vehicle.

Tarkong said Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services ambulance and rescue units were also on scene.

At that time, the wind was strong and the front half of the vehicle was already engulfed in flames, Tarkong said.

Traffic investigators gathered evidence at the scene and statements from eyewitnesses.

Tarkong said that Jung was identified by her father, who arrived at the scene.

DFEMS earlier identified the victim as Soomin Jung.

Jung's body was brought

to the Commonwealth Health Center, where Dr. Florence Schenker pronounced her dead at 3:35am.

Saipan Tribune learned that Jung had just come from the hospital to visit a sister who had just given birth. She was said to be on her way to a friend's house in As Lito when the accident happened.

Jung's family is engaged in the business of selling fabrics on Saipan.

Tarkong said Saturday's crash marks the third traffic fatality this year.

DOC: Inmate population nearly doubled

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the current trend continues, the total inmate population in the CNMI is estimated to double in the next four to five months, according to acting Corrections commissioner Vincent Attao yesterday.

Attao, who has been DOC commissioner since late May, said the inmate population was a little over 160 in February this year. Now, Attao estimates that there are about 250 to 270 inmates.

"In just the past four to five months we saw an increase," said Attao, adding that the number of inmates vary all the time. "It's just been a few months and we are already at the 250 mark."

The department currently has 111 Corrections officers. Attao wishes to increase that number in fiscal year 2018.

"We are looking to recruit...at least an additional 18 officers," said Attao during yesterday's House Ways and Means Committee budget hearing. The additional number is not certain due to a lot

of possible interferences such as dismissals. "We are hopeful that we are at least going to be in that range," he said.

In total, the Department of Corrections is asking for a budget of \$7.2 million for fiscal year 2018, while Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proposes a DOC budget of just \$5.3 million.

Committee chair Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said there are disputed utility bills that are currently being looked at by DOC.

Demapan also added that there is an additional \$300,000 in professional services, which include counselors, physicians, nurses, and the like for the inmates. DOC currently lacks an in-house counselor and physicians and nurses.

Demapan said the rapid increase in the number of inmates is a "cause for concern."

Despite the increase of inmates and the lack of manpower, Demapan described DOC as "doing well as a facility."

"They have had no escapes to report for this year and the previous," he said.

BEIJING

From Page 1

sented CPA and Tenorio in the case.

Kennedy then set a telephone status conference for today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm, but told the parties that the conference will be vacated if the parties file a stipulation to drop the matter.

Beijing Capital Airlines, which operates Beijing Airlines, filed the lawsuit last Tuesday to stop CPA from preventing it from landing at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, based upon a

resolution by the CPA board.

The CPA board resolution, which was adopted last June 13, had suspended the entry of new international flights to the CNMI for 60 days.

The CNMI government and CPA was supposed to use the 60 days to assess the current state of the CNMI's infrastructure's capacity to accommodate the rapid increase in visitor arrival.

Last Thursday, Tenorio issued an order, stating that the suspension will stay "for an indefinite period" until a response is received from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

TINIAN

From Page 1

to officiate Tinian's first gay marriage as it emphasized an important step in equality for members of Tinian's LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community.

"I am honored to be officiating this wedding ceremony

as it is also a historic event for our beautiful island. It gives me great pleasure to be here in support of the newlyweds and the right for all couples to be joined in marriage. This is truly a huge step for our LGBT community members. We are happy for our newly married couple and their families and wish them a beautiful new life together," said San Nicolas. **(PR)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**GMS registration**

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. **(PR)**

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- June 26, from 10 to 11pm
- June 27, from midnight to 11pm
- June 28, from midnight to 8pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 26, from 6 to 11:55pm
- June 27, from 7:30 to 11:55pm
- June 28, and 29 from 8:30 to 11:55pm
- June 30, from 8 to 11:55pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. **(PR)**

Notaries reminded to submit journals

The Office of the Attorney General is reminding all notaries public commissioned in the Commonwealth that they are required to submit a copy of their journals on or before June 30, 2017. The law requires notaries public to submit their journal copies each year by June 30 or face sanctions, including revoking the notary public commission, or the assessment of a fine of \$100 to \$500. For more information, contact Esther San Nicolas Nesbitt at the OAG's Civil Division at 237-7500, or through email at esther_nesbitt@cnmioag.org. **(PR)**

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our

main office at 664-3942. **(PR)**

MHS report cards now available

Report cards for Marianas High School students are available. Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. **(PR)**

NBG sets concert, fireworks on July 4

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will host its next open-base event, the Freedom Rocks Festival, on July 4 at Polaris Point. This free event is open to the Guam community. Armed Forces Entertainment will present a concert by the alternative rock band Papa Roach, starting at 7pm. Fireworks will commence soon after the concert. There will be static displays of Navy equipment, a car show, rides for kids, food vendors (from various American and Chamorro eateries), and various beverages (including water, soda, and beer). Gates at Polaris Point open at 3pm, and the event starts at 4pm. A valid ID

(such as a Guam driver's license, except children under 16) is required to enter Polaris Point for this free event—all patrons must be U.S. citizens. **(PR)**

SHEFA now accepting applications

For all new, ongoing and returning applicants: The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2017. Application deadline is July 3, 2017, and deadline to submit all supporting documents is Sept. 30, 2017. Application and checklist can be downloaded from www.saipan-shefa.net. For more information, visit the SHEFA website, email saipanshefa@gmail.com, or call the office directly at (670) 233-5995. Applications can be scanned and emailed, submitted to the SHEFA office, or faxed to (670) 235-5996. **(PR)**

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. **(PR)**

**NEW TANK**

The giant crane that you see along Monsignor Guerrero Road at the back of the Northern Marianas College campus is a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. project to replace the old steel tank with a concrete one. The project is set to finish in October 2017 and the new tank is projected to carry 1 million gallons of water. The tank will measure some 50 feet and it will have a dome-type concrete roof when it's finished.

BEA CABRERA

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FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHED

On Saturday, the first ever Marianas International Film Festival was launched with Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, right, joining film industry leaders in Shanghai. In this photo, Hocog and Concepcion are being interviewed by members of the press following the launch. The purpose of the festival is to promote the Marianas as a world-class travel destination.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Research team presents Northern Islands findings

Recognizing the significance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Ecosystem Division's findings on benthic coral and the Northern Marianas Islands biodiversity, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stressed the importance of using current data for the management and conservation of the CNMI's coral reefs.

NOAA-CRED recently conducted their triennial trip in the Northern Mariana Islands archipelago, where they did assessments on the ecological health of our reef systems. They presented their findings on June 22, 2017, for members of the administration and the Legislature in the Office of the Governor's on Capital Hill.

Dr. Kelvin Gorospe, chief reef fish ecologist, noted that the Northern Islands have a high fish biomass, which is evident throughout the archipelago's coral reef systems.

"There is a lot of variation but we try to account for that by visiting more sites in the surrounding areas," he said. "It takes longer to see the effects on the fish as these coral reefs respond to global climate change but the Northern Islands are very valuable resources," adding that some rare species have been found in the area.

NOAA's research team left Hawaii on the *Hi'ialakai* on March 26 and has conducted a total of 2,866 dives to collect data on a daily basis.

The research team performed surveys and several hundred dives throughout the waters of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Aguijan, completing their two-month journey in Guguan, Agrihan, Pagan, Alamagan, Asuncion, Uracas, Maug, and

Sariguan.

"The good news is the Northern Islands have a high juvenile density and only partial mortality in some coral, which still allows for recovery from coral bleaching," Gorospe said.

Data collected revealed that there is a significant increase in coral bleaching in Uracas from .033 percent in 2014 to 11.63 percent in 2017, brought about by extreme temperature changes caused by global climate effects.

Gorospe noted that this increase in coral bleaching in uninhabited areas represents the growing concern that existent resources should be protected, preserved, and promoted to reduce local effects so that coral reefs can be more resilient to global climate changes.

Torres added that data collected by NOAA can be provided to the local community and policy makers for their reference.

"NOAA has provided the Commonwealth with valuable information to determine better ways to mitigate the effects of climate change," Torres said. "The CNMI cannot do it alone and we express our appreciation to the research team for their untiring efforts to collect data throughout our island chain."

The scientific crew hails from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Scripps Oceanographic Institute (University of California-San Diego), San Diego State University, University of Guam, the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality as well as NOAA.

For more information on the findings, contact kelvin.gorospe@noaa.gov or dione.swanson@noaa.gov. (PR)

NOAA program seeks 7 fellows

The National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program seeking seven men and women to complete a two-year fellowship program that seeks to build new leaders and capacity for effective coral reef management.

Fellows will be assigned in one of seven jurisdictions: Florida, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI.

Nova Southeastern University will oversee the fellowship program, which is a partnership between NSU, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Conservation Program, the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee.

This program will place seven individuals that meet each jurisdiction's specific coral reef management needs. The position is for two years.

The vision for the program is to develop a thriving collaborative fellowship program

that builds excellent next generation leaders and capacity for effective local coral reef ecosystem management.

The program is currently accepting applications for those interested in being a fellow. Applicants must have a bachelor's or master's degree in marine sciences, environmental sciences or a related field and some professional experience related to their educational history. Specifics vary depending on the jurisdiction in question.

Those interested in applying can do so online at <http://cnso.nova.edu/fellows/apply.html>.

Fellows can be expected to work on national goals for climate change, land-based sources of pollution and fishing, as well as addressing local needs such as the development of management plans for marine managed areas, increased community involvement in monitoring and response, climate change adaptation, and biological monitoring. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Love starts @ the Table



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#loveonaplatecnmi

This message is supported by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine under the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The contents of this message is from the CHCC-CNMI REACH and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHCC-PSA-17-001

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2018 State Plan is now available for review and public comments from June 26-30, 2017. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC 2018 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Our Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on June 30, 2017.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
CNMI WIC Program Administrator

TV Tokyo films vacation special here

TV Tokyo visited the Marianas this month for a production shoot anticipated to bring the islands nearly \$1 million worth of ad exposure.

TV Tokyo was in the Marianas on June 20-26, 2017, to film a special episode that will air on July 29, 2017, reaching an estimated 1.2 million households and targeting viewers in their 20s to 60s who are interested in overseas travel.

"TV Tokyo is one of the major Tokyo television stations with a huge viewership," said MVA marketing manager

Bruce Bateman. "The MVA worked diligently to negotiate this special program about the Marianas, and it will be an important promotional tool for us to reach 1.2 million viewers with the message that, 'The beautiful Marianas are here with new and exciting things to do and your dream vacation is still only three hours away.'"

The production crew filmed at a wide variety of locations. Scenic and historic sites visited included Obyan Beach, Laulau Beach, Mt. Tapochau, and Managaha. Featured attractions were Kingfisher

Golf Links, Mirage Massage, Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle, and Best Sunshine Live. Dining venues filmed included Kazumi, Sunshine Café, Surf Club, Revolving Restaurant 360, Kazan Tei, Hyatt Teppanyaki Restaurant, and Himawari. Shopping was filmed at Rock Steady Shop 670, T Galleria, and Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center. The group also filmed with Marianas-cha (Marianas child) Jebro Leon.

The group lodged at Hyatt Regency Saipan during the filming. (*MVA*)



Marianas-cha (Marianas child) Jebro Leon films with TV Tokyo at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on June 22, 2017. TV Tokyo will air a special feature on Saipan on July 29, 2017, bringing the island an estimated \$900,000 in advertising exposure value. MVA

How to improve your company's OSHA standards

Mario Valentino of Triple J Saipan will speak at the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter meeting on June 29 about the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration laws and what must be done by a company to ensure the safety of their employees, clients and facilities.

Valentino has over 25 years of construction experience and has received numerous awards for his accomplishments. He manages construction operations for Triple J Saipan Inc. His responsibilities include serving as the superintendent of construction for the Surf Rider Hotel and Great Harvest Bakery, as well as managing the maintenance for all Triple J restaurants and other Triple J

operations on Saipan.

Valentino, who will focus on the topic of raising the level of standards in one's OSHA program, will share his passion for workplace safety and training that has resulted in zero fatalities and zero serious injuries under his leadership.

Valentino will also provide a checklist that will help employers ensure safety and meet OSHA inspection standards.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, June 29, 2017, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff to bet-

ter understand OSHA requirements and their responsibilities. Valentino will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit <http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org>. (*PR*)

Referral program asks for over \$12M

The Medical Referral Program seeks to secure over \$12 million in funding for its operation in fiscal year 2018.

Speaking before the Ways and Means Committee on Friday, the Medical Referral Program asked for over \$12.7 million, some \$10.6 million over the governor's proposed \$2.1 million budget for the office.

The parity is currently under discussion by the committee.

"There is a significant difference. For the current year, fiscal year 2017, we are already looking at an expen-

diture of \$6 million, so obviously \$2 million is low," said committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who said the high expenditure may mean one of two things: that the program needs more funds or it "needs to be managed more efficiently."

A lot of medical referrals go to Hawaii, the Philippines, or Guam. However, Demapan said these locations lack utilization reviewers, or URs, a staff that acts as a safeguard against unnecessary and inappropriate medical care.

"Without a UR, there is no

body in the medical staff that can actually be a part of the management of the care, the tracking of the patient's progress, or both. In one aspect, that is what's lacking," said Demapan.

"Maybe we need to revisit that and provide funding to provide URs to be a part of the management for each case," Demapan added.

He agrees that budgeting for medical referral is tricky to predict because "we can't tell what the cases can be and the extent of treatment." (*Erwin Encinares*)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW-17-RFP-018

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN MARPI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Grounds Maintenance Services for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Center in Marpi**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **June 13, 2017**, at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Conference Room on **June 30, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **July 11, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
2. Project Approach – 35%
3. Capacity Schedule of Completion – 30%
4. Cost Proposal – 10%

Cost is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase. Please include a project budget with your response.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is determined in writing to the most Advantageous to the CNMI government taking into consideration price and evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Sealed proposals must be marked "**DPW-17-RFP-018**". For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **July 14, 2017** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **July 14, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 14, 2017** AND must be received no later than **July 25, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

GMS getting ready for academic camp

Green Meadow School's summer camp has two more weeks before its culminating activity, but students are already excited for the academic camp.

This is a yearly activity that the students look forward to because this is where they get the chance to challenge the other campers in-

tellectually.

Academic camp is from July 5 to Aug. 5, 2017. Core subjects will be taught in the camp. For one month the students go through advance academic lessons.

The students are divided into groups. Each group is composed of five members. One will be the writer for the

team. The group that will score the most points in the easy, average, and difficult rounds will be declared the winner.

The competition will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe, Saipan, on Aug. 5, 2017, from 8am to 12pm.

Parents are also encouraged to participate in the battle of the brains during the culminating activity. (PR)



Green Meadow School's summer camp has two more weeks before its culminating activity but students are already excited for the academic camp. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AMP welcomes teacher ranger teacher

For the second year in a row, American Memorial Park was one of 34 parks from across the National Park Service to be selected to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher Program. The purpose of the program is to provide teachers an opportunity to learn about NPS educational resources and themes while earning continuing education graduate credits through a partnership between the NPS and the University of Colorado-Denver.

American Memorial Park welcomes Riya Nathrani as this summer's teacher ranger teacher. Nathrani is a third grade teacher at the William S. Reyes Elementary School. When asked about the opportunity, she said, "I look for-

ward to attaining knowledge and skills to enhance my curriculum and to help ignite a life-long personal connection with national parks in my students."



Nathrani

Over the summer, Nathrani will spend several weeks in an immersive, on-site experience at American Memorial Park, developing and implementing a community program as well as completing three graduate credit hours of coursework in Experiential Learning online. She will also receive a stipend from the university.

For more information about these events or other programs at the park, contact ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

OSHA publishes proposed rule on beryllium exposure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced Friday a proposed rule that would modify the agency's recent beryllium standards for the construction and shipyard sectors.

Representatives of the shipyards and construction industries, as well as members of Congress, raised concerns that they had not had a meaningful opportunity to comment on the application of the rule to their industries when the rule was developed in 2015-16. This proposal provides a new opportunity to comment on the rule for those industries and the public.

The new proposal would make changes to the rule only

for the shipyard and construction sectors. The general industry standard is unaffected by the proposal.

The proposal for shipyards and construction would maintain the requirements for exposure limits (permissible exposure limit of 0.2 µg/m³ and short-term exposure limit of 2.0 µg/m³), which will continue to protect workers from a serious beryllium-related lung disease known as chronic beryllium disease. The proposal instead revises the application of ancillary provisions such as housekeeping and personal protective equipment in the January 2017 final standards for the construction and shipyard industries.

OSHA has evidence that exposure in these industries

is limited to a few operations and has information suggesting that requiring the ancillary provisions broadly may not improve worker protection and be redundant with overlapping protections in other standards. Accordingly, OSHA is seeking comment on, among other things, whether existing standards covering abrasive blasting in construction, abrasive blasting in shipyards, and welding in shipyards provide adequate protection for workers engaged in these operations.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds in Construction and Shipyard Sectors will be published in the *Federal Register* on June

27, 2017. OSHA encourages the public to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments during the 60-day comment period.

On Jan. 9, 2017, OSHA issued a final rule that established new protections for workers who are exposed to beryllium in general industry, construction, and shipyards.

Beryllium is a lightweight metal used primarily in specialty alloys and beryllium oxide ceramics. It is also present as a trace material in metal slags.

OSHA also announced it will not enforce the Jan. 9, 2017, construction and shipyard standards without further notice while determining whether to amend the Jan. 9, 2017, rule. (PR)



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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Global warming in the classroom

There is a bubbling controversy about how to teach “manmade global warming” in the classroom. Is it a scientific certainty about which there can be no dispute? Or is it a theory about which people with differing viewpoints can have a legitimate debate?

Let’s check in and see how The Associated Press reports on the issue: “The struggle over what American students learn about global warming is heating up as conservative lawmakers, climate change doubters and others attempt to push rejected or debunked theories into the classroom.”

Wow. Not much doubt about where the AP stands. You toe the line on “scientific consensus” or you’re one of those awful conservative doubters trying to push rejected bunk into the classroom.

Of course it’s nowhere near that simple.

Schools are on firm footing with the majority of their teachings because they deal either with events that have happened or are happening (history, current events) or facts that have stood the tests of time and rigorous inquiry (mathematical formulas, geographical contours, scientific forces). These things can be imparted with certainty.

At the other end of the spectrum are those things about which there are as many opinions as there are human beings, including the “social studies” of sociology, psychology and politics. These need to be passed along with an understanding of human frailties and uncertainties.

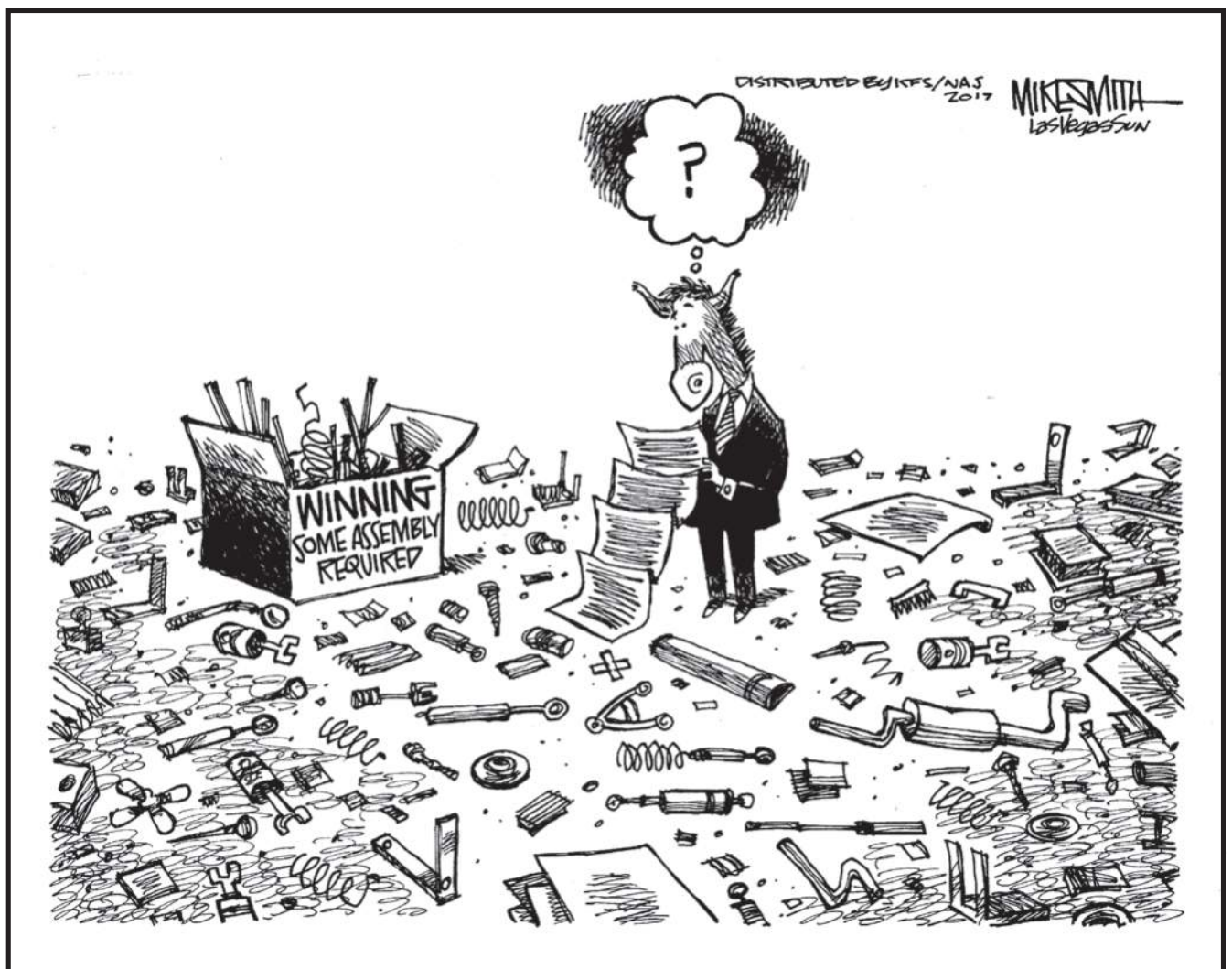
Manmade global warming—or, to use the currently favored term, “anthropogenic climate change”—falls somewhere between those two extremes. There is a consensus that warming exists and that humankind contributes to it. But what percentage is the human contribution? What will the effects exactly be? What should be done?

The answers to the questions aren’t clear, but—and here’s the big problem—politicians and, now, educators, think the solution is obvious: Dramatic intervention by a powerful state that mandates drastic action from everybody. That’s not science. That’s politics in the extreme.

Alas, some states’ solutions are less than ideal. Indiana, for example, has passed an “academic freedom” resolution giving teachers great latitude in how they help students “analyze and critique scientific theories.” That’s almost an invitation to teach flat-Earth-theory mumbo jumbo and Earth-is-the-center-of-the-universe nonsense.

But extremism breeds extremism, so now we’re getting politics from both sides, which means science gets a seat in the back of the class.

(c)2017 The News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne, Ind.)



Want to be green? Work at home

Expanding mass-transit systems is a pillar of green and “new urbanist” thinking, but with few exceptions, the idea of ever-larger numbers of people commuting into an urban core ignores a major shift in the labor economy: More people are working from home.

True, in a handful of large metropolitan regions—what we might call “legacy cities”—trains and buses remain essential. This is particularly true of New York, which accounts for a remarkable 43 percent of the nation’s mass-transit commuters, and of other venerable cities, such as San Francisco, Washington, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. Together, these metros account for 56 percent of all mass-transit commuting. But for most of the rest of the country, transit use—despite often-massive infrastructure investment—has either stagnated or declined. Among the 21 metropolitan areas that have opened substantially new urban-rail systems since 1970, mass transit’s share of work trips has declined, on average, from 5.3 percent to 5 percent. During the same period, the drive-alone share of work trips, notes demographer Wendell Cox, has gone up from 71.9 percent to 76.1 percent.

Meantime, the proportion of the labor force working from home continues to grow. In 1980, 2.3 percent of workers performed their duties primarily at home; by 2015, this figure had doubled to 4.6 percent, only slightly behind the proportion of people who commute via mass transit. In legacy core-metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the number of people working from home is not quite half that of those commuting by transit. In the 47 MSAs without legacy cores, according to the American Community Survey, the number of people working from home was nearly 250 percent higher than people going to work on trains or buses.

In the greater Los Angeles area, roughly 1.5 percent of people worked from home in 1980; today about 5 percent do. Meanwhile, despite significant expenditures, the share of people using mass transit went from slightly over 5 percent to slightly less than 5 percent.

The areas with the thickest presence of telecommuters—including cities such as Austin, Raleigh-Durham, San Diego, Denver, and Seattle—tend to have the greatest concentration of tech-related industries, which function well with off-site workers. In San Jose, the epicenter of the nation’s tech industry, 4.6 percent of people work from home, exceeding the 3.4 percent who take mass transit. Other telecommuting hot spots include college towns like Boulder, where over 11.6 percent of workers work from home, and Berkeley, where the share is 10.6 percent.

By **JOEL KOTKIN**
Los Angeles Times

Joel Kotkin is a presidential fellow in urban studies at Chapman University. This essay was excerpted from the Manhattan Institute’s *City Journal* and published in the Los Angeles Times.



Leading telecommuting centers tend to be home to many well-educated, older and wealthy residents. Communities such as San Clemente, Newport Beach and Encinitas in Southern California, as well as Boca Raton in Florida, all have telecommuting shares over 10 percent. Perhaps older, well-connected people are more inclined to avoid miserable commutes, given the chance to do so. As the American population skews older, the economy will likely see more workers making such choices.

Another important demographic force contributing to the work-from-home inclination is Americans’ continuing move to lower-density cities, which usually lack effective transit, and to the suburbs and exurbs—where 81 percent of job growth occurred between 2010 and 2014. While most metropolitan regions can be called “polycentric,” they are actually better described as “dispersed,” with central business districts (CBDs) and suburban centers (subcenters) now accounting for only a minority of employment. By 2000, more than three-quarters of all employment in metropolitan areas with populations higher than 1 million was outside CBDs and subcenters.

Home-based work could be the logical extension of this dispersal—and modern technologies, from ride-sharing services to automated cars, will probably accelerate the trend. A recent report by the global consulting firm Bain suggested that greater decentralization is likely in the coming decades. A 2015 National League of Cities report observes that traditional nine-to-five jobs are on the decline and that many white-collar jobs will involve office-sharing and telecommuting in the future. The report also predicts that more workers will act as “contractors,” taking on multiple positions at once.

Some see these developments as ominous, but greens and urbanists shouldn’t. Telecommuting will, among other things, reduce pollution. It may be that the shift to home-based work will prove the ultimate in mixed use—albeit for workers in their pajamas.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Improve life, stop doing these 12 things

In these days of turmoil and strife, there are things we can stop doing to make life better for ourselves and those around us. You will find a dozen items (plus a bonus) conveniently detailed in the list below.

1. Stop making your family miserable by insisting that they be more like other happy families.
2. Stop asking people to do you a favor when that favor involves requesting them to apply their professional expertise for free. Unless these people insist that they would like to help, do not ask: your attorney friend for detailed advice about how to siphon more money out of your ex who just got a raise; your contractor friend to rehang the back door; your editor friend to read your 7,943-page manuscript "just for fun" when she "has a minute." Don't tell your veterinarian pal about your dog's drool or your dentist friend about your own drool unless you make an office appointment first.
3. Stop thinking that texting "Sorry—I'm running late!" compensates for, or mitigates, the rudeness of making another person wait for you.
4. Stop making your kids' doctors and dentist appointments if they're over age 23. Stop paying their essential bills (dinners out and grocery runs are fabulous gifts but should not be staples). Stop doing their laundry and paying their car insurance. Give your kids the advice and emotional support. They need it, but let them assemble the resources. As long as they're prepared—because you have helped to prepare them—to accept that their first jobs will probably be boring, tedious and will not

permit them to explore the limitless possibilities of their rich imaginative life within the first three months, they will be able to start making their own way in the world.

5. Stop practicing the worst of all gerunds when it comes to your emotional life: stop deflecting, projecting, repressing, evading and denying.
6. Don't leave your clothes on the floor, your unfinished food on the counter or your dirty dishes in the sink. Nobody, not even the later version of you, thinks, "What a swell idea! Filth!" If you hate cleaning up after yourself, just imagine how other people feel about it.
7. Don't overdo the nonchalance. Be chalant. Allow yourself to be impressed, cheered, surprised and thrilled by the achievements, ideas, good news and delights of others. (Unless they are very good friends, however, you don't have to be equally delighted by the achievements of their pets, children or favorite reality television stars; I can give you a written pass for that.)
8. If you stop being viciously judgmental about other people, a wonderful thing will happen: you'll gradually stop thinking they're harshly judging you. Remind yourself that it doesn't matter how many people are doing better or worse than you are: Life is not graded on a curve.
9. Stop using the word "phony" unless you are Holden Caulfield from J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye." This is especially true if you are a leader of the free world and employing the word in a tweet.

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.



10. Stop trying to dazzle the newly grieving with your complex theories about mortality, the role of death in our culture and best practices when it comes to keeping funerals eco-friendly. Make them food and don't ask for the dish back. Bring them flowers and don't explain why you chose the particular arrangement. This is not about you. This is about the person who has suffered a loss. As my friend Barbara Cooley says, "Stop thinking you're the most important person in the room."

11. Stop being pious about what you don't eat, what fabrics you don't wear, what you don't drink, what you don't watch or read. Minerals don't eat, wear, drink, watch or read any of those things either but that doesn't mean rocks are virtuous.

12. Stop trying to be tough all the time and remember that every now and then you need to crack up before you break through. "Cracking up" is slang for both losing your grip on reality and laughing uproariously. Are you surprised?

■ Bonus: Everybody needs to stop telling everybody else what they can't do.

Is this the government we deserve?

Rod Blagojevich was governor of Illinois from 2003 until 2009, when he was impeached. Two years later, Blagojevich was convicted of extortion and soliciting bribes. He was sentenced to 14 years in the slammer.

During the trial, Judge James B. Zagel pointedly addressed Blagojevich as "governor." In his sentencing remarks, Zagel explained why.

"It serves as a reminder to those of us who vote and those of us who don't," Zagel said. "It reminds the voters of the maxim 'The American people always get precisely the government that they deserve.' Your case is another lesson for us."

Judge Zagel's point, I think, was that no politician takes office without the consent of the voters — their votes as well as their abstentions. Voters take responsibility, however, only for the good ones. Both an informed, engaged electorate that turns out to vote and an uninformed, apathetic electorate that stays home deserve what they get.

The maxim that a democracy will get exactly the government it deserves is widely and incorrectly attributed to Alexis de Tocqueville. It actually came from Joseph de Maistre, a mostly forgotten French philosopher of the reactionary counter-revolution school that preferred authority, faith and tradition to liberty, reason and fraternity.

"Every nation gets the government it deserves," de Maistre said. In his view, a wise and virtuous nation deserved and would be rewarded with an enlightened despot. His favorite sovereign-

ty was the Vatican.

In this early period of the Trump counter-revolution, I have heard many variations on de Maistre's theme, including one from former President Barack Obama.

"People have a tendency to blame politicians when things don't work, but as I always tell people, you get the politicians you deserve," Obama said in May. "And if you don't vote and you don't pay attention, you'll get policies that don't reflect your interest."

He meant, "You got Trump."

Obama's adage is more in the spirit of H.L. Mencken than de Maistre. Mencken wrote, "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard."

In my experience, people say that America gets the government it deserves when they despise the regime in power, when they are bitter and at the end of their wits. Since Trump's election, I have been fighting a strong urge to join the de Maistre-Mencken school. It isn't a charitable urge.

Philosophically, the whole concept is incoherent.

It makes no real sense to say that a whole nation or a people "deserve" something in a moral sense, whether good or bad. An individual can be said to deserve something. So perhaps can a team and other kinds of smaller, coherent organizations or communities. But not a nation. And what constitutes deserving? A good nation will be rewarded and a bad one punished? What

By **DICK MEYER**

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.decodedc.com). Readers can email Meyer at dickmeyer.dc@scripps.com



constitutes good? Can a nation have good karma?

Rhetorically and emotionally, however, it resonates to think "we get the government we deserve." A population that, compared to similar countries, turns out to vote at low rates, has low civic literacy and low engagement with parties, campaigns and public service shouldn't be surprised to find it thinks it has low quality representatives and government.

The idea of a "deserving electorate" is further muddled because democracies are not perfect reflection of the voters' will. For example, the individuals and organizations that finance campaigns and lobby government have disproportionate power that is independent of the popular vote.

I am inclined to think that sometimes we get what we deserve, sometimes we get lucky and sometimes we get shafted — at least in our modern presidents. I can argue for this in a way everyone can dislike.

Sometimes a presidential candidate turns out to be exactly the kind of president most voters thought — in a good way. Voters made wise assessments and deserve these good presidents. I would put Eisenhower and perhaps Kennedy in that group.

Sometimes voters pick candidates who don't really seem made of presidential timber, whom they are ambivalent about and who then turn out to be predictably so-so as presidents. I nominate Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush for this category. Sometimes these candidates become much worse presidents than even tough critics thought they would be, such as George W. Bush.

Sometimes voters get lucky, and the winning candidate does much better than expected as president. I put Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama in that category.

And some candidates' deep and obvious character flaws and moral handicaps are obvious to the whole world yet they still win. In this group belong Richard Nixon, a disaster; Bill Clinton, a scandal and an embarrassment; Donald Trump, a disaster in the making, perhaps on an unprecedented scale.


So in this sense, I agree with de Maistre, Mencken and Obama. Donald Trump is the president we deserve. We elected him eyes wide-open and so shame on us. I hope our punishment is not too severe.



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼78°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲89° ▼78°


THURSDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼77°


FRIDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼77°

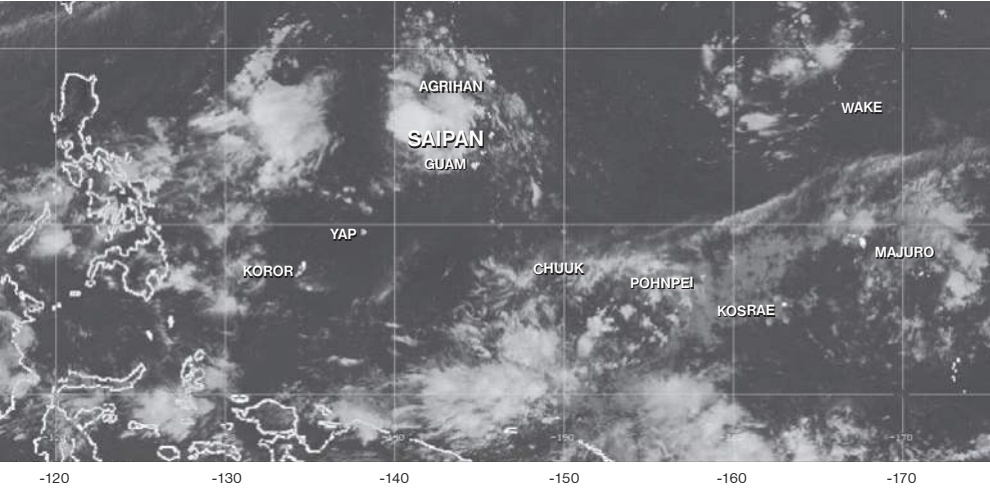
SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance, which remains the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center is centered to the west-northwest of Guam, near 14N143E. This system continues to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the islands and coastal waters this morning. The disturbance will continue to move westward through today, with the associated showers and thunderstorms also expected to move westward, out of the region, by this afternoon. Showers will gradually decrease through the morning to isolated by noon today, with the risk of thunderstorms continuing through tonight. By Tuesday morning, a drier trade-wind pattern will return to the Marianas. This drier pattern will be short-lived, as another round of showers and thunderstorms are likely Thursday as another weak disturbance moves into the area. An upper-level low is then expected to move into the area, prolonging the wet pattern into the weekend. Models do hint at the possibility of periods of scattered showers, though timing at this point will be difficult. Due to uncertainty with this forecast, decided to maintain isolated showers for now with isolated thunderstorms extended into Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 75°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°			
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°			
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 82°			
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°			
London	Rain	72° / 59°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 62°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°			
New York	Mostly Sunny	80° / 63°			
Osaka	Rain	81° / 73°			
Paris	Thunderstorms	81° / 63°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 70°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°			
Salem	Sunny	88° / 65°			
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	80° / 49°			
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 66°			
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 70°			
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 60°			



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:17 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09	
9:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
4:24 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.50	
11:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:47 AM	9:47 PM	-
Wednesday	9:46 AM	10:35 PM	-
Thursday	10:41 AM	11:19 PM	-
Friday	11:33 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:01 AM	12:24 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:10pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

2017 CNMI LIBERATION DAY CARNIVAL GROUNDS FESTIVITIES

Celebrating Culture Community and Service!

DELICIOUS DISHES AND COLD DRINKS

- The Hut
- Wholly Smokes!
- 22 Ram
- Local Taste
- Flores Ice Cream
- NMTI Chef's Booth
- Rose Cheap Cut Barbecue
- Fruittie Smoothie
- Sierra Pearl Shakes
- Fong's Bakery
- Yipin Restaurant
- JFar Corporation
- Saipan Brewing
- MarPac and Rabauli-Men on a Mission Foundation

FUN GAMES

- Bruce's Virtual Reality Games
- Eucon International School
- Play Red! by Stellar Marianas
- Bingo by SUFA Softball Team
- Sandbox Creations
- Dice Game
- Pyramid Ball Toss
- Slide Table Shuffle
- Spinning Basket

ARTS AND CRAFTS

- Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture Booth
- Face Painting

Live Entertainment!

TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH

2017 CNMI LIBERATION DAY OPENING CEREMONIES

- 6:00: Opening Ceremony
- 6:10: National Anthems and DPS Color Guard Posting of Colors
- 6:20: Introduction of the 2017 CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court
- 6:30: Welcoming Remarks
Hon. Governor Ralph Torres
Hon. Saipan Mayor David Apatang
LD Chairman Matt Deleon Guerrero
- 7:00: Check Presentation
- 7:15: Blowing of the Shell (Kulu)
- 7:30: Simiyan Mananaita
- 8:00: Marianas Sinser
- 8:30: Tiul Belau Palau Association
- 9:00: Refaluwasch Warriors
- 9:30: Ray Peter
- 10:00: Closing

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!
Enjoy a night of song and dance!

- Emcee: Midnight Monkey Keoni
- 6:00: Opening
- 6:30: Tubera Siblings
- 7:00: Cab Dancers
- 7:30: FESTPAC Dancers
- 8:00: Simiyan Marianas
- 8:30: Ubses
- 9:00: Retro Jazz Band
- 10:00: Closing

THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH

SING TO WIN!
Join the Karaoke Contest to win awesome prizes!

- Emcee: Mama Lu
- 6:00: Opening
- 6:30: Trivia Raffle
- 7:00: Flores Sinser
- 7:30: Karaoke Contest
- 8:00: Ikaika Johnson
- 8:30: Karaoke Contest
- 9:00: Talofa Dancers

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH

DANCE FEST!
Dance floor is open!
Deejays from CNMI and Guam here to make you dance all night!

- Emcee: John Hosono
- 6:00: Opening
- 6:05: Fakiezero
- 6:30: DJ David G.
- 8:00: DJ Jojo Camacho
- 9:30: DJ Pogi

Fun for the whole family!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Marianas Variety

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Tan Holdings



Business

Takata files for bankruptcy, overwhelmed by air bag recalls

By TOM KRISHER and MARCY GORDON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in Tokyo and the U.S. on Monday, saying it was the only way to ensure it could carry on supplying replace-

Japanese air bag maker Takata

Workers wonder about boss' smoke breaks

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: My supervisor recently got very angry when a few employees lined up at the time clock shortly before quitting time. She said we must keep working every minute until the end of our shift. However, her concern for productivity seems hypocritical, as she regularly wastes time taking smoke breaks.

Twice a day, our supervisor and department manager go outside and spend 15 minutes smoking and chatting. One of our co-workers occasionally joins them, and they never complain about his missing work. How can we protest this unfair company policy?

A: Smoke breaks have been a point of contention for years. Because non-smoking employees understandably resent others having free time to indulge a bad habit, many companies have eliminated this special privilege. In terms of policy change, therefore, the trend is in your favor.

At the moment, your group actually appears more upset about management than about smoking. But since complaining about your bosses could be unproductive and risky, focusing on the break policy is a smarter move. To increase your leverage, get some irritated non-smokers from other departments to join the cause.

Next, your group must decide where to take this complaint. Since personnel policies typically originate in human resources, the HR manager would seem to be the logical choice. Instead of bringing up time clock issues or supervisory unfairness, explain how smoke breaks reduce productivity and are resented by non-smokers.

Since your supervisor and her boss may not appreciate this attempt to revoke their smoking privileges, ask the HR manager to keep identities confidential. And don't expect immediate results. Policy changes seldom happen overnight, but at least you will have started the conversation.

Q: Several months ago, I accepted a job that requires weekly travel. I was expected to cover the central United States from our headquarters in Texas, which worked out well. Recently, however, my territory was expanded to include half the country, so I now have three-hour flights to the East Coast.

To reduce my travel time, I asked the company to pay for my relocation to North Carolina, where my family is from. My manager says human resources denied this request. I suspect that he told them I wanted to move for family reasons. Should I clarify this with HR, or just leave it alone?

A: The glaring omission in your story is any description of how this move would benefit your company. On the face of it, covering "half the country" from North Carolina would seem to be no more convenient than doing so from Texas, so any savings of money or time are not immediately apparent. If HR reached the same conclusion, then your motivation may have indeed appeared to be personal.

If you wish to find out why your request was denied, by all means ask the HR manager. But before initiating that conversation, prepare a business case showing how the move to North Carolina will either reduce travel costs or increase your productivity. If this proves to be difficult, however, then you should definitely drop the subject.



Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. CEO Shigehisa Takada bows at the beginning of a press conference in Tokyo, Monday, June 26, 2017.

ments for faulty air bag inflators linked to the deaths of at least 16 people.

Most of Takata's assets will be bought by rival Key Safety Systems, a Chinese-owned company based in suburban Detroit, for about \$1.6 billion (175 billion yen).

The company's executives sought to reassure their customers, suppliers and shareholders in a news conference on Monday. With the company rapidly losing value while Takata struggled to reorganize its finances, filing for bankruptcy protection was the only option, Takata's president, Shigehisa Takada, told reporters.

"As a maker of safety parts for the automobile industry, our failure to maintain a stable supply would have a major impact across the industry," Takada said in Tokyo.

Takata's inflators can explode with too much force when they fill up an air bag, spewing out shrapnel. Apart from the fatalities, they're responsible for at least 180 injuries, and are grappling with

the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. So far 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide including 69 million in the U.S., affecting 42 million vehicles.

More than 70 percent of the airbags recalled in Japan have been replaced, and 36 percent in the U.S., said Hiroshi Shimizu, a Takata vice president. He said progress of the recalls in other countries was unknown.

Under the agreement with Key, remnants of Takata's operations will continue to make inflators to be used as replacement parts in the recalls, which are being handled by 19 affected automakers.

Takata will use part of the sale proceeds to reimburse the automakers, but experts say the companies still must fund a significant portion of the recalls themselves.

"It's likely every automaker involved in this recall will have to subsidize the process because the value of Takata's assets isn't enough to cover the costs of this recall," said Karl Brauer, executive pub-

lisher of Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader.

Takata and the automakers were slow to address the problem with the inflators despite reports of deaths and injuries. Eventually they were forced to recall tens of millions of vehicles. The scope of the recall means some car owners face lengthy waits for replacement parts, meanwhile driving cars with air bags that could malfunction in a crash.

The defect in the inflators stems from use of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate in the inflators to deploy air bags in a crash. The chemical can deteriorate when exposed to hot and humid air and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister.

At least \$1 billion from the sale to Key is expected to be used to satisfy Takata's settlement of criminal charges in the U.S. for concealing problems with the inflators. Of that amount, \$850 million goes to automakers to help cover their costs from the recalls. Takata already has paid \$125 million into a fund for victims and a

\$25 million fine to the U.S. Justice Department.

Attorneys for those injured by the inflators worry that \$125 million won't be enough to fairly compensate victims, many of whom have serious facial injuries from metal shrapnel. One 26-year-old plaintiff will never be able to smile due to nerve damage, his attorney says.

The lead attorney for people suing the automakers said in a statement following the announcement that he doesn't expect the bankruptcy to affect the pending claims against the companies. Settlement agreements with Toyota, Subaru, BMW and Mazda already have won preliminary court approval, Peter Prieto noted.

That settlement will speed the removal of faulty inflators from 15.8 million vehicles and compensate consumers for economic losses, he said. Claims are continuing against Honda, Ford, Nissan and Takata. Fallout from the bankruptcy filing came swiftly from the Tokyo Stock Exchange, which said it was stripping the company founded in 1933 from trading as of Tuesday.

Key makes inflators, seat belts and crash sensors for the auto industry and is owned by China's Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp. Its global headquarters and U.S. technical center is in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Key said it won't cut any Takata jobs or close any of Takata's facilities.

The Takata corporate name may not live on after the bankruptcy. The company says on its website that its products have kept people safe, and it apologizes for problems caused by the faulty inflators. "We hope the day will come when the word 'Takata' becomes synonymous with 'safety,'" the website says.

China sentences 3 Australian Crown Resorts staff to prison

SHANGHAI (AP)—Australian and Chinese employees of a casino company on Monday pleaded guilty to charges relating to gambling and the three Australians were sentenced to nine or 10 months' imprisonment, an Australian official said.

The 19 defendants, including three Australians from the sales and marketing team of Australia's Crown Resorts Ltd., appeared at a court in Shanghai. Casino gambling, the marketing of casinos and organizing overseas gambling trips involving 10 or more

people are illegal in China.

"The three Australians and the other defendants pleaded guilty," the Australian Consul General in Shanghai, Graeme Meehan, said outside the Baoshan District People's Court.

Jason O'Connor, the head of Crown Resorts international VIP programs was sentenced to 10 months in prison, and Australian-Chinese dual nationals Jerry Xuan and Jenny Pan received sentences of nine months' imprisonment, Meehan said.

Their sentences start from

the date they were detained, which was Oct. 14, he added.

At least half of the 19 had been on bail awaiting trial, according to an officer from the court's propaganda office who only gave his surname, Li.

Crown's vice-president in China, Malaysian Alfreed Gomez, was also among the defendants.

Casino gambling and the promoting of gambling are illegal in mainland China and agents are banned from organizing groups of more than 10 Chinese citizens to gamble abroad. According

to Chinese law, anyone who "runs a gambling house or makes gambling his profession" can face up to three years in prison.

However, gambling is allowed in the Chinese enclave of Macau—Asia's gambling center—and Chinese are often coveted by foreign casinos.

The industry has been known to skirt China's ban by touting destination packages rather than gambling, particularly as Chinese President Xi Jinping's ongoing corruption crackdown has deterred some gamblers from Macau.

Nation

Trump: Not ‘that far off’ from passing health overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—Making a final push, President Donald Trump said he doesn’t think congressional Republicans are “that far off” on a health overhaul to replace “the dead carcass of Obamacare.” Expressing frustration, he complained about “the level of hostility” in government and wondered why both parties can’t work together on the Senate bill as GOP critics expressed doubt over a successful vote this week.

It was the latest signs of high-stakes maneuvering over a key campaign promise, and the president signaled a willingness to deal.

“We have a very good plan,” Trump said in an interview broadcast Sunday. Referring to Republican senators opposed to the bill, he added: “They want to get some points, I think they’ll get some points.”

Trump’s comments come amid the public opposition of five Republican senators so far to the Senate GOP plan that would scuttle much of former President Barack Obama’s health law.

Unless those holdouts can be swayed, their numbers are more than enough to torpedo the measure developed in private by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and deliver a bitter defeat for the president. That’s because unanimous opposition is expected from



In this Jan. 27, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 27, 2017.

Democrats in a chamber in which Republicans hold a narrow 52-48 majority.

Trump bemoaned the lack of bipartisanship in Washington, having belittled prominent Democrats himself.

“It would be so great if the Democrats and Republicans could get together, wrap their arms around it and come up with something that everybody’s happy with,” the president said. “And I’m open arms; but, I don’t see that happening. They fight each other. The level of hostility.”

Trump has denigrated Democrats on numerous occasions, including a jab at Democratic

Sen. Elizabeth Warren in the same interview: “She’s a hopeless case. I call her Pocahontas and that’s an insult to Pocahontas.”

Warren, a leading liberal and defender of the Affordable Care Act, has opposed efforts to pass a bill to replace the law. The Democrat reiterated her opposition in a statement to The Associated Press on Sunday, saying the health care bill being pushed by Senate Republicans is a “monstrosity.”

In a tweet last week after Georgia’s special House election, Trump also criticized House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate

Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. “I certainly hope the Democrats do not force Nancy P out. That would be very bad for the Republican Party - and please let Cryin’ Chuck stay!” he wrote.

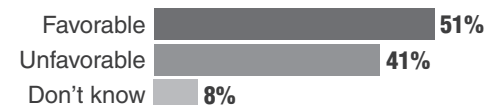
In the broadcast interview, Trump did not indicate what types of changes to the Senate bill may be in store, but affirmed that he had described a House-passed bill as “mean.”

“I want to see a bill with heart,” he said, confirming a switch from his laudatory statements about the House bill at a Rose Garden ceremony with House GOP leaders last month. “Healthcare’s a

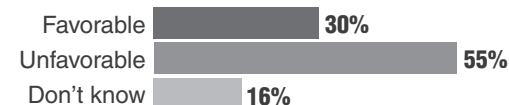
Opinions on health care reform

The Kaiser Family Foundation polled 1,208 adults between June 14-19 on their opinions about the plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

Affordable Care Act



Plan to repeal and replace



Margin of error: +/- 3%
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

Graphic: Tribune News Service

very complicated subject from the standpoint that you move it this way, and this group doesn’t like it.”

“And honestly, nobody can be totally happy,” Trump said.

McConnell has said he’s willing to make changes to win support, and in the week ahead, plenty of backroom bargaining is expected. He is seeking to push a final package through the Senate before the July 4 recess.

At least two GOP senators said Sunday that goal may prove too ambitious.

“I would like to delay,” said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., one of the five senators opposing the bill. “These bills aren’t going to fix the problem. They’re not addressing the root cause,”

he said, referring to rising health care costs. “They’re doing the same old Washington thing, throwing more money at the problem.”

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said seven to eight other senators including herself were troubled by provisions that she believes could cut Medicaid even more than the House version.

Collins, who also opposes proposed cuts to Planned Parenthood, said she would await an analysis Monday from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office before taking a final position on the bill. But she said it will be “extremely difficult” for the White House to be able to find a narrow path to attract both conservatives and moderates.

ACROSS THE NATION

Joe Arpaio on trial over immigration actions echoing Trump’s

PHOENIX (AP)—The immigration rhetoric and crackdowns pushed by President Donald Trump have a familiar ring in Arizona, where former Sheriff Joe Arpaio once used similar tactics to become a national figure. Now, Arpaio is going on trial on a criminal charge stemming from those immigration enforcement actions. The eight-day trial that begins Monday in federal court in Phoenix will determine whether the 85-year-old retired lawman is guilty of misdemeanor contempt of court for disobeying a judge’s order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants. The judge later found his officers racially profiling Latinos. Arpaio’s legal troubles played a major role in voters turning him out of office in November after a campaign in which he appeared alongside Trump at several rallies in Arizona.

Gay pride parades sound a note of resistance—and face some

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

Tens of thousands of people waving rainbow flags lined streets for gay pride parades Sunday in coast-to-coast events that took both celebratory and political tones, the latter a reaction to what some see as new threats to gay rights in the Trump era. In San Francisco, revelers wearing rainbow tutus and boas held signs that read “No Ban, No Wall, Welcome Sisters and Brothers” while they danced to electronic music at a rally outside City Hall. Frank Reyes said he and his husband decided to march for the first time in many years because they felt a need to stand up for their rights. The couple joined the “resistance contingent,” which led the parade and included representatives from several activist organizations. “We have to be as visible as possible,” said Reyes, wearing a silver body suit and gray and purple headpiece decorated with rhinestones. “Things are changing quickly and we have to take a stand and be noticed,” Reyes’ husband, Paul Brady, added. “We want to let everybody know that we love each other, that we pay taxes and that we’re Americans, too.”

Poll: Younger Republicans more liberal on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Young Republicans hold significantly more liberal views of immigrants and immigration than their older counterparts, reflecting a difference consistent with white Americans regardless of which political party they identify with, according to the latest American Values Atlas, a survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute survey.

While 41 percent of Republicans of all ages believe immigrants face a lot of discrimination in the United States, the percentage increases to 60 percent among Republicans between 18 and 29 years old, the survey found. That’s a stark contrast to GOP voters 65 and older—only a third of that group says immigrants experience discrimination.

Researchers also found that 74 percent of young whites believe that immigrants are targeted for discrimination a lot, compared to 57 percent of white Americans of all ages.

However, among Republicans, only for the youngest group, between 18 and 29, is that view in the majority. Even 30-to-39-year-old Republicans are evenly split, 48 percent to 48 percent, on whether immigrants undergo a lot of discrimination.

Overall, 63 percent of Americans say there’s a lot of discrimination against immigrants, the most who say of any group asked about in the poll. That includes transgender people (62 percent), black Americans (57 percent) and gays and lesbians (58 percent).

Greg Goldstein, 20, and Ryan Kromsky, 24, are in the generation of Republicans that says immigrants face discrimination.

“Immigration has been the basis of the American society, and to this day immigrants offer a great deal to the workforce, economy and overall success of America,” said Goldstein, an economics major at the University of Maryland and president of the

school’s Progressive College Republicans.

Kromsky, a former Maryland student who founded the group, agrees. “These hard workers, bright students and aspiring capitalists should be welcomed with open arms, the same way that Americans are openly welcomed abroad,” said Kromsky, who graduated in 2015 and is now a financial systems analyst in Washington.

“Closed-minded Republicans need to expand their perspective to see how immigrants are helping us all create a better America. I believe that this will change with the younger generation of Republicans,” Kromsky said.

Both Kromsky and Goldstein favor a more inclusive approach than their older Republican counterparts to immigrants in general, whether or not they’re living in the U.S. illegally. The young Republicans polled share that view.

According to the PRRI poll,

64 percent of all Americans, regardless of political affiliation and age, believe that immigrants in the U.S. illegally should have a path to citizenship if certain conditions are met; only 16 percent say they should be deported. Among Republicans of all ages, support for a path to citizenship is lower, at 55 percent. But when only Republicans between the ages of 18 to 29 are accounted for, that number rises to 62 percent.

The election of President Donald Trump, who pledged to deport millions of immigrants living in the country illegally during the campaign, did not diminish the young Republicans’ hope for a new stance by the GOP.

“I think the rhetoric was used to churn up votes and does not represent President Trump’s actual views, but I truly hope that President Trump will respect immigration as the pillar of American society that it always has been,” Kromsky said.

Asia

PH: IS funded siege through Malaysian militant

MARAWI, Philippines (AP)—The Islamic State group helped fund the month-long siege of a southern Philippine city through a Malaysian militant who was reportedly killed by troops, the Philippine military chief said Friday.

Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press that Malaysian Mahmud bin Ahmad reportedly channeled more than \$600,000 from the IS group to acquire firearms, food and other supplies for the attack in Marawi. Money believed to be from illegal drugs also funded the uprising, he said.

Mahmud was wounded in the fighting last month and reportedly died on June 7, he said. A local militant leader, Omarkhayam Maute, also is believed to have been killed in the early days of intense fighting and troops were looking for their remains to validate the intelligence the military had received.

Troops are seeking the help of villagers to pinpoint the spot where Mahmud was reportedly buried, Ano said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu Bakar acknowledged that Mahmud was in Marawi fighting with insurgents but said he believed the militant is still alive. Malaysian authori-

ties are trying to determine the number of Malaysians who joined the siege but said at least four may have been killed in clashes.

Two other rebel leaders, top Filipino militant suspect Isnlon Hapilon and Maute's brother, Abdullah, were still fighting in Marawi, Ano said.

A former Malaysian university professor who became radicalized and received training in Afghanistan, Mahmud appeared in a video showing militant leaders planning the Marawi siege in a hideout, a sign of his key role in the uprising. The AP obtained a copy of the video, which was seized by troops May 23.

A month ago, about 500 local militants, along with some foreign fighters, stormed into Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Troops since then have killed about 280 gunmen, recovered nearly 300 assault firearms and regained control of 85 buildings. Many of the taller buildings were used as sniper posts to slow down the advance of government forces, the military said.

At least 69 soldiers and police and 26 civilians have died in the fighting. Only four villages in Marawi remain in the



hands of the militants, out of the 19 of 96 villages across the lakeside city of 200,000 people that the black flag-waving militants had occupied.

"They are constricted in a very small area. They're pinned down," Ano said. He said three boatloads of gunmen who tried to join the militants were blasted by navy gunboats three days ago in Lake Lanao,

which borders Marawi.

Ano said the battle was taking longer because the militants were using civilians as human shields.

"We can just bomb them away or use napalm bombs to burn everything, but then, we will not be any different from them if we do that," he said.

The audacious attack by the heavily armed militants

This image taken from an undated video shown to The Associated Press by the Philippine military shows Malaysian militant Mahmud bin Ahmad, who helped lead and finance the siege in southern Marawi city.

and their ability to hold on to large sections of a city for weeks surprised the government and sparked fears among Southeast Asian countries that the Islamic State group was moving to gain a foothold in the region.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said the Philippines accepted an offer of two AP-3C Orion aircraft to provide surveillance to local troops. The U.S. military earlier deployed a spy plane and drones over Marawi.

Facing his worst crisis, President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law in the south to deal with the Marawi siege.

Powerful clans and war-

lords, along with insurgencies, have effectively weakened law enforcement in large areas of the country's south, making it easier for militants to take over an area and hold it, said Sidney Jones, director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"I do think that martial law doesn't solve the problem and I think military strikes, especially airstrikes, don't solve the problem," Jones said. "It's a much broader problem that needs a strategic solution."

Philippine Foreign Minister Alan Peter Cayetano and his Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts met with top security officials in Manila on Thursday to discuss the crisis. They agreed on a plan of action to combat terrorism and rising extremism and deal with the prospects of Asian fighters returning to their region from Syria and Iraq, where the IS group has been losing territory.

Over 150 dead as overturned fuel truck explodes in Pakistan

BAHAWALPUR, Pakistan

(AP)—Alerted by an announcement over a mosque's loudspeaker that an overturned tanker truck had sprung a leak, scores of villagers raced to the scene with fuel containers Sunday to gather the oil. Then the wreck exploded, engulfing people in flames as they screamed in terror.

At least 153 men, women and children were killed, with dozens more in critical condition, hospital and rescue officials said.

"I have never seen anything like it in my life. Victims trapped in the fireball. They were screaming for help," said Abdul Malik, a police officer who was among the first to arrive on the scene of horror in Pakistan's Punjab province.

When the flames subsided, he said, "we saw bodies everywhere. So many were just skeletons. The people who were alive were in really bad shape."

About 30 motorcycles that villagers had used to rush to the site of the highway accident lay charred nearby along with cars, witnesses said. Local news channels showed black smoke billowing skyward and army helicopters taking away the injured.

As victims cried out for help, residents wandered through the area, looking for loved ones.

Zulkha Bibi searched for her two sons.

"Someone should tell me about my beloved sons. Where are they? Are they alive or are they no longer in this world?



A Pakistan army soldier stands guards while rescue workers examine the site of an oil tanker explosion at a highway near Bahawalpur, Pakistan, Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Please tell me," she pleaded.

Many of the dead were burned beyond recognition, said Dr. Mohammad Baqar, a senior rescue official in the area. They will have to be identified through DNA.

The disaster came on the eve of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. While Saudi Arabia and most other Muslim countries celebrated the holiday Sunday, Pakistanis will mark it on Monday.

The fuel truck was traveling from the southern port city of

Karachi to Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital, when the driver lost control and crashed on a highway outside Bahawalpur.

A loudspeaker atop a mosque alerted villagers to the leaking fuel, and many rushed to the scene with fuel containers, said Rana Mohammad Salim, deputy commissioner of Bahawalpur.

Highway police moved quickly to redirect traffic but couldn't stop the scores of villagers, spokesman Imran Shah told a local TV channel.

When the fire erupted, the same mosque loudspeaker

called on the remaining villagers to help put it out.

Mohammed Salim said he ran toward the smoke with buckets of water and sand, but the heat was too intense for him to reach the victims.

"I could hear people screaming, but I couldn't get to them," he said.

Dr. Javed Iqbal at Bahawalpur's Victoria Hospital said most of the patients suffered burns to upward of 80 percent of their bodies. Many were evacuated by plane or helicopter to hospitals in the Punjab cities of Lahore and Multan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese FM in Pakistan to offer mediation with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit to discuss bilateral ties and stability with neighboring Afghanistan. State-run Pakistani TV showed the Chinese foreign minister and his nine-member delegation being received Saturday by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's younger brother, Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. State media reported that the visiting minister held talks with Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz and other Pakistani officials, including foreign secretary Tehmina Janjua, to discuss bilateral ties with Afghanistan, and securing peace and stability with the neighboring country. The Chinese foreign minister arrived in Islamabad after visiting Kabul. He will leave Sunday following a further round of with Pakistani officials.

Rebels kill 1 Indian soldier, wound 3 in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian security forces put an outskirts of Srinagar, the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir, under security lockdown as they battled two rebels who took shelter in a school building after killing one paramilitary officer and wounding another soldier. Rajesh Yadav, an Indian paramilitary force spokesman, said the insurgents attacked a paramilitary patrol vehicle with gunfire on a key highway connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India on Saturday. They were killed in gunbattles that raged until late Sunday. Yadav said two Indian army commandos also were wounded in exchange of gunfire on Sunday. Indian forces cordoned off a 10-kilometer (6-mile) area after local residents clashed with government forces on Saturday to help the insurgents escape the trap. It was reopened for traffic later Sunday. Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, a charge Islamabad denies.

World

Dozens missing after tourist boat sinks in Colombia

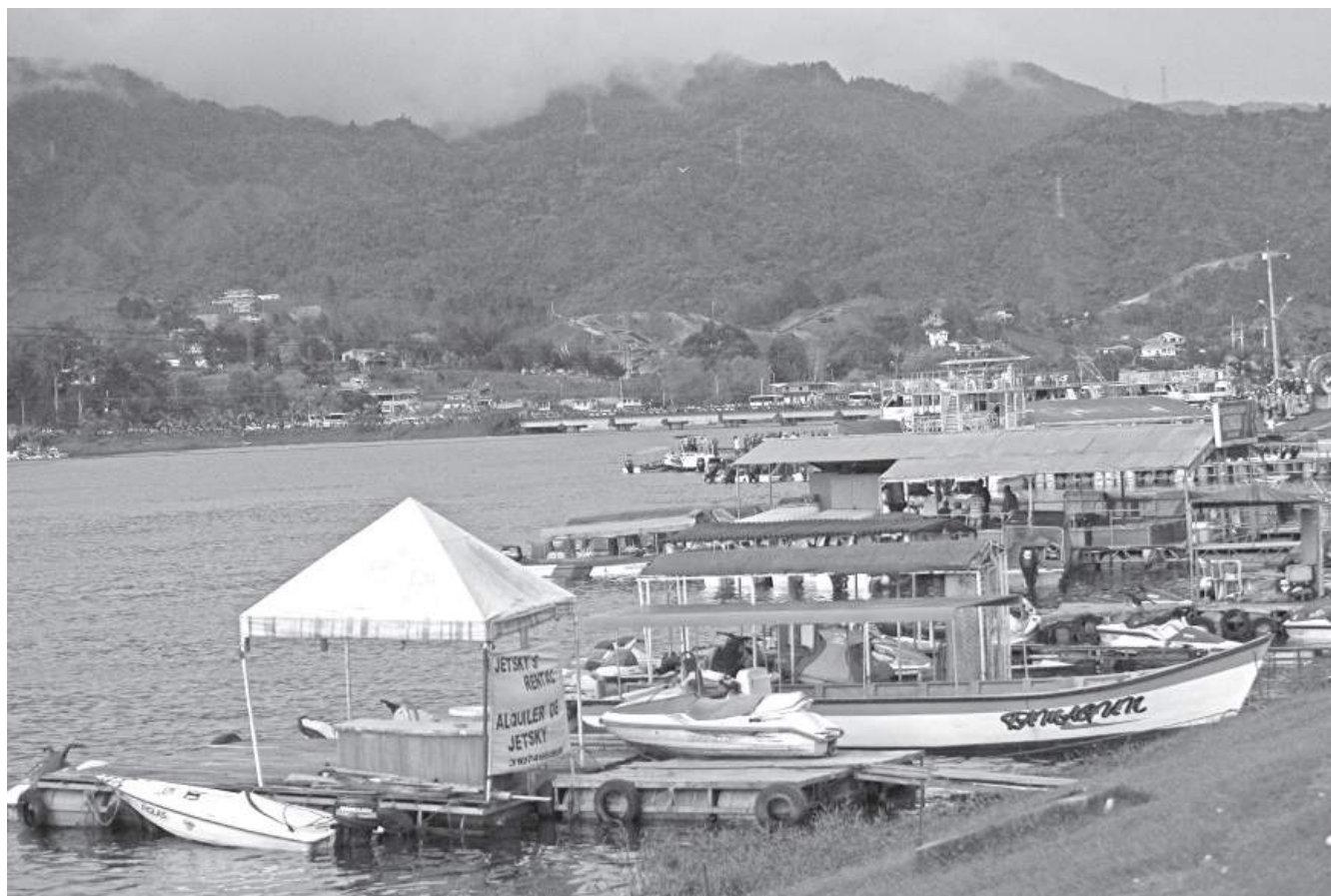
GUATAPE, Colombia (AP)—A tourist boat packed with about 160 passengers for the holiday weekend cap-sized Sunday on a reservoir near the Colombian city of Medellin, leaving at least six people dead and 31 missing, officials said.

Rescuers including fire-fighters and air force pilots in helicopters searched for survivors at the Guatape reservoir where El Almirante ferry sank. A flotilla of recreational boats and jet skis rushed to the scene, pulling people from the boat as it went down and avoiding an even deadlier tragedy.

Dramatic videos circulating on social media show the turquoise and yellow trimmed party boat rocking back and forth as people crawled down from a fourth-floor roof as it sank in a matter of minutes. Survivors described hearing a loud explosion near the men's bathroom that knocked out power a few minutes after the boat began its cruise around the giant lake. As water flooded on board, pressure built and people were sucked under by the sinking ship.

"Those on the first and second floors sank immediately," survivor Lorena Salazar told local media. "All we could do was scream and call for help.... it was completely chaotic."

Margarita Moncada, the head of the disaster response agency in Antioquia state, said



AP
Boats are docked at the reservoir where a ferry sank in Guatape, Colombia, Sunday, June 25, 2017.

government," he said.

As night fell, the usually festive town was silent as people began to register the magnitude of the loss. Among those huddled under the rain near the port looking for information about loved ones was Alberto Villegas, who was separated from a cousin and uncle in the mad rush to abandon the sinking ship.

"All we ask is that they don't give up the search," said Villegas.

Authorities were at a loss to say exactly how many people were on the boat and asked passengers or their loved ones to report to a rescue center hastily set up along the shore. They also made a call for scuba divers to assist with the search.

that according to a preliminary report 99 people were rescued and another 40 managed to find a way to shore on their own. Speaking to reporters from the reservoir, she said nine people had been killed and around 28 were missing.

But later Sunday President Juan Manuel Santos arrived to Guatape and said 122 people were either rescued or found their way to shore. Six had died and another 31 were missing, he said. The discrepancy in the number of fatalities could not be immediately reconciled.

It's unclear what caused the boat to sink.

Some people who witnessed the tragedy from the nearby shore said the boat appeared to be overloaded but Santos said it was sailing well below capacity. None of the passengers were wearing a life vest. Complicating the search, there wasn't even a passenger list.

"Nobody really knows what

happened," said Santos, adding that naval officials were brought in to carry out an investigation.

Carlos Espinosa, an independent journalist from Guatape, said about a month ago townspeople awoke to find the El Almirante filled with water and sinking at its dock, suggesting that perhaps the vessel wasn't ready to return to the water.

"What makes you angry is there are no controls by the

Turkey rejects Arab terms to Qatar, US urges sides to talk

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey's president on Sunday rejected a demand by major Arab states to remove Turkish troops from Qatar, among a sweeping list of ultimatums that the United States has described as "difficult to meet." Speaking after Eid al-Fitr prayers in Istanbul, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called the demand to pull the Turkish troops "disrespectful" and said his country would not seek permission from others when making its defense cooperation agreements.

"Demanding that Turkey pull its soldiers is unfortunately also disrespectful toward Turkey," he said.

He said Turkey would continue to support Qatar against the many sanctions it has faced since several Arab countries moved earlier this month to isolate the country for its alleged support of terrorism. Turkey shipped suppliers and food via cargo planes to Qatar after its neighbors closed down air, land and sea routes.

The United States said the demands on Qatar by its Mideast neighbors "will be very difficult to meet." But the U.S. isn't rejecting the demands outright.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson added in a statement Sunday that the list of demands from Saudi Arabia,

Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates includes major areas that "provide a basis for ongoing dialogue leading to a resolution."

He called on the Arab countries to "sit together" with Qatar to work through what he hoped would be "reasonable and actionable" demands.

In a sign of support, the Turkish parliament swiftly ratified a 2014 military agreement with Qatar earlier this month, allowing the deployment of troops to its base there. The military said a contingent of 23 soldiers reached Doha on Thursday. Turkey has also shipped supplies and food via cargo planes after

Erdogan said he made a similar offer to Saudi Arabia to set up a base there in the past but did not hear back from the king.

A Turkish foreign ministry statement Sunday reiterated that the deployment of Turkish troops in Qatar contributed to regional security and was not aimed at a specific country.

"Just like the presence of other foreign military bases or units in other countries of the region, our military presence in Qatar is principally based on a decision taken by the two countries relying on their sovereign rights," ministry spokesman Huseyin Muftuoglu said.

Italy giving 5.2B euros in resources to keep 2 banks open

ROME (AP)—The Italian government on Sunday made 5.2 billion euros (\$5.8 billion) of resources immediately available to keep operative two banks that the European Central Bank has deemed "failing or about to fail," sending them into insolvency procedures.

Premier Paolo Gentiloni defended the swift action by the government as vital for ensuring Italy's slow economic recovery isn't derailed by a "disorderly" failure of Veneto Banca and Banca Popolare di Vicenza.

The two banks are based in the northeast Veneto region, one of Italy's most economically productive. They serve many of the small and medium-sized businesses that are the backbone of the nation's economy.

Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan assured Italians that on Monday "there will be normal operations at the teller windows" when the two banks reopen their doors after the weekend.

The European Central Bank on Friday night pulled

the plug on the two troubled banks, which have struggled with high levels of outstanding loans.

The resources approved by the government will facilitate, as widely anticipated, Italian bank Intesa Sanpaolo's taking on the "good" assets of the two banks.

Gentiloni said the government's rescue move at an ad hoc Cabinet meeting Sunday afternoon was mainly aimed at saving "account-holders, savers, of these two banks, in favor of those who work in these banks, and in general in favor of the economy of the territory, one of our most important."

He also deemed the help vital "for the good health of our banking system," which is seen elsewhere in Europe as a weak point in Italy's economy.

Banks that can't issue loans hamper Italy's businesses from bouncing back, and also pose vulnerability to the eurozone economy as a whole.

Padoan told reporters that the overall price tag for the

rescue operation would eventually be nearly 17 billion euros (\$20 billion) because it would include Italian government "guarantees" for 12 billion (some \$13.5 billion).

He defended the government actions as "burden-sharing, not a bail-in," saying "all this is in full respect of EU rules."

"The government has utilized European rules in the best possible way," Padoan said.

In the evening, the European Commission said in a statement from Brussels approved the measures taken by Italy.

The EU's commissioner in charge of competition policy, Margrethe Vestager said that "Italy considers that state aid is necessary to avoid an economic disturbance in the Veneto region," following the liquidation of the two banks.

"Italy will support the sale and integration of some activities and the transfer of employees to Intesa Sanpaolo," and said the action will "also remove \$18 billion (\$20 billion) in non-performing loans from

the Italian banking sector and contribute to its consolidation."

Intesa Sanpaolo's CEO Carlo Messina said in a statement sought to justify the acquisition. "Without the offer presented by Intesa Sanpaolo -- the only one submitted in the auction held by the government -- the crisis of the two banks would have had a significant impact on the entire Italian banking system, with severe consequence for the economy that would have put at risk the country's economic recovery."

Padoan insisted there would be no impact on public finances. That's because a government decree of several months ago already provided for the resources for bank rescues.

With government taking on the liquidation of so-called "bad" assets of the two banks, some of the costs might be recouped eventually, Padoan noted.

He added that small account holders and senior bond holders would see their funds "100 percent repaid."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Toyota Camry looks to shed its vanilla persona

NEWBERG, Ore. — Sometimes, a car's name is appropriate.

Consider the Toyota Camry, whose moniker is derived from the Japanese word for crown, kanmuri. This makes sense given the Camry has worn the U.S. sales crown as the No. 1 selling passenger car for 19 of the past 20 years.

Yet midsize car sales are declining, with 63 percent of U.S. auto buyers opting for trucks, SUVs, and crossovers. While the midsize segment is still large, it increasingly rewards daring design. Just ask Kia. As of June 1, the Optima has seen the smallest sales decline of any midsize sedan in 2017.

Enter the redesigned 2018 Toyota Camry, which aims to banish the model's bland reputation.

For buyers accustomed to more sedate styling, this car's caffeinated, athletic appearance is sure to be polarizing. It's 2 inches longer and less than 1 inch wider than the

Camry it replaces, and passengers sit about 1 inch lower than last year — something that won't go unnoticed by those used to an SUV's higher ride height.

It will be offered in five grades: a new base-level L trim, followed by the LE and XLE, identifiable by their sedate horizontal front fascia. The more athletic SE and XSE models sport a black-painted roof, rear spoiler and side mirrors; an aggressive black mesh grille, and oddly placed, non-functional vertical vents below the taillights. The car's polarizing wardrobe cloaks an impressive new platform equipped with front MacPherson struts and a new double wishbone rear suspension that results in admirable poise while carving corners.

Power comes from an all-new

2.5-liter four-cylinder engine generating 206 horsepower and 186 pound-feet of torque paired to an all-new eight-speed automatic transmission. A revised 3.5-liter V-6, with 301 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque, is also offered and is matched to the same transmission. Finally, the Camry Hybrid uses the 2.5-liter four and electric motors matched to a continuously variable automatic transmission. All Camrys have front-wheel drive; all-wheel drive is not offered.

Despite the updated engines, there's remarkably little change in performance.

The V-6 is powerful enough to chirp the front tires, while the four provides sufficient power if drivers keep their feet buried in the throttle. If

you prefer four cylinders to six, try the Hybrid. It boasts strong off-the-line acceleration and better fuel economy: 52 mpg combined on the LE Hybrid with its lithium ion batteries, 46 mpg on the SE and XLE Hybrids with nickel-metal hydride batteries. Most buyers will opt for the four-cylinder Camry, which returns 34 mpg combined; the V-6 returns 26 mpg.

Regardless of model, the Camry's beautifully designed interior is exceptional for a car of this class, with a roomy cabin, generous legroom and firm seats that prove surprisingly comfortable.

The artfully sculpted instrument panel houses Toyota's Entune 3.0 infotainment system, with an improved user interface, but without Apple Car Play or

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: \$23,495-\$34,950
- Engine: 3.5-liter V-6, 2.5-liter DOHC four, Hybrid
- Horsepower: 301/206/208
- Torque: 267/186
- Fuel type: Regular
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 23-51/32-53
- Wheelbase: 111.2 inches
- Length: 192.7 inches
- Cargo capacity: 15.1 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 3,472-3,571 pounds

Android Auto. Navigation is courtesy of the Scout app, which must be linked from your smartphone through Bluetooth. An embedded navigation system is offered on top-end models. Curiously, the hedonistic features found in some competitors—including memory seats, heated steering wheel, rear seat heaters or seat ventilation—aren't available.

Toyota's Safety Sense suite, however, is standard—and it's fairly complete, although you must get a higher

trim level to get a blind spot monitor and rear cross traffic alert. A head-up display is a new feature.

Since replacing the Corona with the Camry in 1983, Toyota has sold more than 18 million worldwide, most sporting a conservative persona. While there's little doubt that the 2018 Toyota Camry and its youthful aura is vastly better than the model it replaces, it remains to be seen if Toyota has gone a step too far with its styling.

My guess is they haven't.



The 2018 Toyota Camry features an impressive new platform equipped with front MacPherson struts and a new rear double wishbone rear suspension. AP

MOTORMOUTH: Father still knows best, even with newfangled transmissions

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: When my dad taught me to drive in 1975 he drilled into my head that I must come to a complete stop prior to shifting from reverse to drive, and drive to reverse. And that it was imperative to be completely stopped prior to shifting to park. My husband now claims that transmissions have come so far that this is not necessary. What is true in today's cars?

— P.K., Chicago

A: Father knows best. You can't go wrong following his

advice, but your husband has a point. In the past, internal clutches and brakes could be damaged if one component was not released prior to another being applied. Today's computer-controlled, solenoid-operated transmissions will not allow bad things to happen—usually.

Q: My daughter has to park her car on the street. Several times now, the horn sounded without anybody near the car. It has gone off while she's at work and during the night different times. There has been no unusual weather, either. Do you have any

ideas what could be causing the problem?

— B.L., Bensenville, Ill.

A: The problem probably lies in the horn circuit. That circuit consists of the horn pad on the steering wheel, the wiring for the horn or the horn relay. Chances are, it is the horn pad. Tap it, mash it, bop it and see if the horn keeps sounding after you remove your hand. That would indicate a pad problem. The next most likely suspect is the horn relay, which is usually on a panel under the hood. Lastly, and least likely, is a short to ground in the wiring.

Q: Please tell recent ques-

tion-asker H.R. of Glenview, Ill., that squirrels hate peppermint. If he sprays peppermint oil under the hood where they are building the nest it will keep them away. We have had this happen to us twice with a car that sits out. Unfortunately, the first time it happened we didn't find out about it until we smelled cooked baby squirrel many miles into our road trip. Not a pleasant experience.

— J.P., Oswego, Ill.

A: We gladly pass along your tip. But it has gotten us wondering if a stick of Wrigley's peppermint gum would

work. It could give the squirrel something else to chew on besides the wires.

Q: I have a 2008 C6 Corvette with a recurring, intermittent problem where the transmission will not shift out of park. The engine starts normally, but the shifter will not move out of park. It will also happen with the engine running and the car temporarily shifted into neutral. Sometimes, if I rock the car with the engine off and then restart it, it will magically shift out of park. The car has 17,000 miles and otherwise has no other problems.

— M.K., Boynton Beach, Fla.

A: As you know, you must apply the brakes to shift out of park. Therein may lie the problem. If the brake light switch is out of adjustment, pressing the pedal will not release the shift-lock solenoid on the shifter mechanism. (The brake lights may not come on either.) If adjusting or replacing the switch does not work, the shifter may have to be replaced. By the way, the next time you have trouble, press the start-stop switch to the accessory position, then press the brake pedal and you may be able to move the shifter. You may then start the engine in neutral.

Life & Style

Mellow now, John McEnroe wants today's players to get mad

NEW YORK (AP)—John McEnroe wants more anger in tennis. Not the kind of racket-smashing, profanity-flying tantrums he threw as a player, when he could go from the sport's best player to its baddest boy in the same service game.

He wants to see players get fed up that they can't break through against Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, that they remain stuck behind Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray heading into Wimbledon.

"Those are the two greatest players that ever played in my opinion right now, Nadal and Federer, but I'm amazed that guys aren't hungrier or angrier about sort of their lack of success," McEnroe said. "I mean, these guys are tremendous and better than the guys for the most part, but not every single day. You've got to come at these guys with everything you've got."

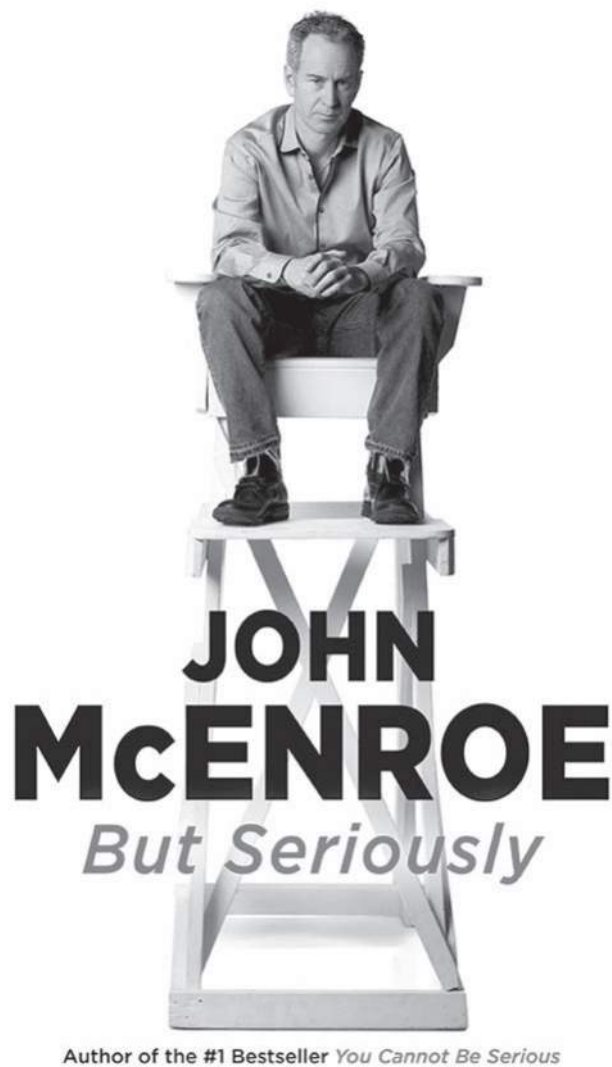
That helped fuel McEnroe's rise to the top of tennis. While he says he's always had a good relationship with Bjorn Borg, whom he considers probably his greatest rival, the hatred of losing to Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl lasted from the center court at Grand Slams to the locker room during senior exhibitions.

He thinks players now might get along too well with Federer, who won his record 18th Grand Slam at the Australian Open, or be too in awe of Nadal, who added his 15th at the French Open.

"And you don't have to, like, disparage a guy," McEnroe said, "you've just got to have this hunger and will to try to—when I played Connors for example, I tried to get myself to think like, 'Am I trying as hard as this guy, do I want it as bad as him?' And most of the time it feels like it wasn't, but I tried to and it feels like that's what you've got to do against these guys."

"You've got to bring everything you've got every single point or else they'll just walk all over you, and it seems like a lot of the guys have, to some extent, have let that happen."

Life after his tour career is the focus of McEnroe's new book, "But Seriously," in which he details the ups and downs of his many roles outside of tennis: frustrated actor, amateur musician, art collector, remarried husband, proud



This image released by Little, Brown and Company shows "But Seriously," by John McEnroe. Life after his tour career is the focus of McEnroe's new book in which he details the ups and downs of his many roles outside of tennis.

parent. He still plays some, but without the interest level in the U.S. to really do a senior tour right, he knows that at age 58, he's close to that ending.

"When I feel pretty good, like there's certain days, one out of three days, where I'll feel pretty good physically and that elevates my game," McEnroe said. "I try to feel good every time, but it doesn't work out that way where things start clicking. So that's something that's more fleeting and frustrating, so that's why, I mean that's why you walk away from the sport in the first place. I didn't feel like I could win a major anymore, so I just didn't feel like I could keep playing, or that I wanted to keep playing when I really felt like I had no chance of winning."

He was only 25 when he won the last of his seven majors. He's since found entertainment opportunities through his friends on both coasts, though the game show and talk show he hosted were both short-lived. He's stayed

involved in tennis as one of the sport's top commentators, through his John McEnroe Tennis Academy in New York and a little coaching,

helping guide Canadian Milos Raonic to the Wimbledon finals last year.

Perhaps his own career would have been different had

he played now. The top four on the men's side are all 30 or over, and none is slowing down the way players did at that age when McEnroe played.

In Celebration of His New Life †JOAQUIN SANTOS AGUON JR.

Born: April 13, 1972

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 21, 2017

In his new life, he joins his:

Parents: †Joaquin & †Joaquina Santos Aguon

Grand Parents: †Antonio M. Aguon
†Rosa S. Aguon
†Jose A. DL Guerrero
†Maria S. DL Guerrero
†Jesus K. Ilo

God Parents: †Anthony E. Santos (Baptismal)
†Antonio Fernandez (Confirmation)

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his siblings/spouses:

Alan S. / Miyang Q. Aguon (Family)
Antionette Jorlyn S. Aguon (Family)
Tricia M.S. Aguon / Florencio Falig (Family)
Edwin S. Aguon / Nadine Aquino (Family)
Lana Marie A. / Georgie Eperiam (Family)
Vincent S. / Thesia DLC. Aguon (Family)
Joshua S. Aguon (Family)
Rose Nelly A. / Derick Hocog (Family)
God Parent: Maria (Akiy) S. Agulto (Baptismal)
God Daughter: Bettina Jacyn F. Mai

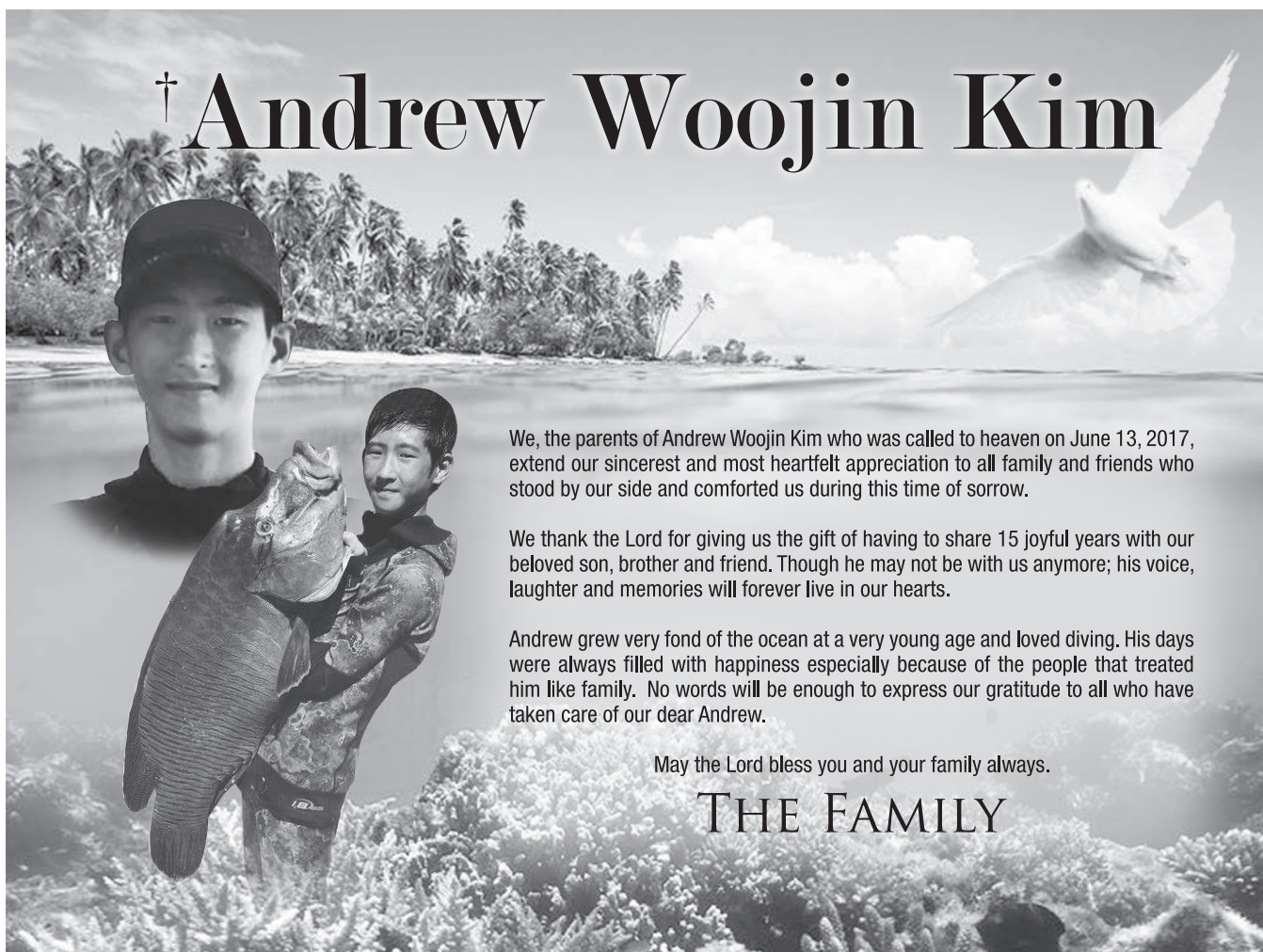
He is also survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, & Friends

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
On Thursday, June 29, 2017, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

†Andrew Woojin Kim



We, the parents of Andrew Woojin Kim who was called to heaven on June 13, 2017, extend our sincerest and most heartfelt appreciation to all family and friends who stood by our side and comforted us during this time of sorrow.

We thank the Lord for giving us the gift of having to share 15 joyful years with our beloved son, brother and friend. Though he may not be with us anymore; his voice, laughter and memories will forever live in our hearts.

Andrew grew very fond of the ocean at a very young age and loved diving. His days were always filled with happiness especially because of the people that treated him like family. No words will be enough to express our gratitude to all who have taken care of our dear Andrew.

May the Lord bless you and your family always.

THE FAMILY

By MARK OLSEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As the audience was settling into the theater before the world premiere of “Baby Driver” this year at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, the energy level was stoked higher by a pre-show playlist of songs with “Baby” in the title curated by writer-director Edgar Wright himself. That sort of attention to detail, a sense of bespoke fun, encapsulates what has made the British-born Wright a favorite of discerning fans and critics alike.

Wright is known for the cult favorite trilogy of films “Shaun of the Dead,” “Hot Fuzz” and “The World’s End” plus “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World,” making him an ultimate example of a geek made good, but his latest film may be the one to finally push his distinctive appeal to broader, mainstream audiences. With its exuberance, wit, antic precision and idiosyncratic mix of action, music and romance, “Baby Driver” is in many respects Maximum Edgar.

“I think at heart they’re all works of passion,” Wright said in Los Angeles. “I’m never doing a movie because I think I ought to; I’m doing movies because I want to. And I’m also creating the stories I want to see.”

He added, “‘Baby Driver’ in a way is a lot of different passions colliding in one movie—to do a full-on action movie, but it’s also about music at the same time. So to kind of tackle my twin passions in one movie, it’s a dream come true.”

The movie follows a young man who goes by Baby (Ansel Elgort) and works as an ace getaway driver for criminal enterprises planned by the powerful Doc (Kevin Spacey). Baby always listens to music on his headphones, even while driving, to both soundtrack his life and drown out the ringing tinnitus in his ears. After Baby meets a waitress named Debora (Lily James), he wants out of the criminal life, but not before a final heist with a crew that includes live-wire outlaws Buddy (Jon Hamm), Darling



(Eiza Gonzalez) and Bats (Jamie Foxx).

The origins of “Baby Driver” go back some 22 years, when Wright was in a modest apartment in North London listening to a cassette tape of the skittish blues-rock of the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion song “Bellbottoms” over and over, lost in the car chase it evoked in his head. While Wright would use some of those ideas in a 2003 music video he directed for the group Mint Royale, the dazzling opening heist and car chase sequence of “Baby Driver,” set to “Bellbottoms,” is more or less what Wright pictured in his head all those years ago.

He eventually built out a story to go along with that nascent imagery, assembling a growing want list of songs, including old soul and R&B, vintage British rock and more of a wide and varied taste. And the story of Baby the driver itself took on the

air of a cautionary workplace fable. “I did like the idea of starting the film with the fantasy of being a getaway driver and ending it with the nightmare of being a criminal,” Wright said.

Originally from Somerset, England, Wright made his feature debut with the ultra-low-budget “A Fistful of Fingers” when he was barely 20, then moved on to the British TV comedy “Spaced” before launching to international acclaim with “Shaun of the Dead.”

Wright, 43, is in a rarefied field of directors with a core following and critical cachet. Perhaps emblematic of his standing in the filmmaking field, he recently participated in an impromptu Twitter round table with directors Christopher McQuarrie, Ava DuVernay, Guillermo del Toro, James Mangold, Rian Johnson and William Friedkin.

But Wright’s rise has not been without bumps in the road. It has been four years since the release of his previous film, the apocalyptic comedy “The World’s End.”

In that time Wright went

In Moscow, 1

MOSCOW (AP)—Over a million people have visited the relics of Saint Nicholas, one of the Russian Orthodox Church’s most revered figures, since they were brought to Moscow last month.

A total of 1,021,500 peo-

ple have paid their respects to the holy remains, according to data published Saturday on an official website for the relics.

The queue to see the fragments of the saint’s bones on display has regularly ex-

ceeded several kilometers from Moscow’s Cathedral of Christ the Savior since the May 23 beginning of public viewings.

The huge turnout underlines the importance of the Orthodox Church and the

million people visit relics of

popular saint

defining role religion plays for many Russians a quarter-century after the collapse of the officially atheist Soviet Union.

The relics, on loan from Italy, will be moved to St. Petersburg later this month.

through a high-profile departure in 2014 shortly before production was to begin on Marvel’s “Ant-Man,” a project he had been working on since 2006. Though Wright still received a writing credit on the finished project, he has never watched the film.

“I don’t want to go into too much detail, and I can’t go into too much detail, but the simple, hard facts of it is that there was a point right before, about eight weeks before were supposed to start shooting, where they wanted to do a draft with somebody else,” Wright said. “Once you’ve been a writer-director on a movie for eight years, it’s kind of tough to take. So it was a really tough decision that ultimately was a binary decision. If I do something like that I want to be a writer-director on it, I don’t want to just be a director-for-hire, that’s not what I signed up for. The positive thing that came out of it is I came into doing this film next.”

Wright’s longtime producer Nira Park doesn’t think the experience of “Ant-Man” changed Wright at all as a filmmaker, though she could see he had extra determination once they decided that the long-gestating “Baby Driver” was the movie he would make next.

“Edgar is an eternally optimistic person, and that was obviously very tough, but he remained very positive and then he threw himself into ‘Baby Driver,’” said Park of how “Ant-Man” affected Wright. “Once we decided ‘Baby Driver’ was the next thing, there was no way Edgar wasn’t making that movie.”

As for whether the experience has turned him off to the possibility of franchise filmmaking, Wright answered with a mixture of diplomatic caution and hard-earned wisdom. “I would be a fool to say no, so I will definitely say never say ‘never,’” he said. He leaned in close to a reporter’s recorder to add with a smile, “I will say on the record that I’ll do a Bond movie.”

Wright’s intense preparation for “Baby Driver,” with a budget estimated at \$34 million, made itself apparent even before the production assembled in Atlanta. Actors and key crew were sent a tablet set up so that certain songs and sound effects could be heard while reading the script, giving a sense of the movie’s sen-

sory overload. As Gonzalez put it, “When I read the script, my brain melted through my ear.”

Having made meticulous storyboards before shooting, Wright works with an editor on set during production, putting together the movie as it is in progress piece by piece. Yet he remains open to collaboration and the sort of creative invention that can happen on set.

“He does really let you let rip,” James said. “You can hear him giggling behind the camera, ‘Yes, yes, do that again.’ It feels like there is a real freedom to the whole thing, and when you are working with someone who is so deeply passionate about what he’s created, it’s the most infectious energy.”

Hamm met Wright at the after-party when the actor first hosted “Saturday Night Live” in 2008 and the two became friends. During shooting on “Baby Driver,” Hamm said he often felt the need to remind Wright to sleep and eat. “He genuinely loves this. He loves talking about movies, he loves talking about music, he loves listening to music, he loves watching movies, he loves the whole process,” said Hamm. “And when we were down in Atlanta, there was no one person who worked harder than Edgar. Period. By a factor of, like, five.”

In many ways Wright is perhaps still not so far removed from that young man in a shabby apartment with a head full of images and dreams. He recalled a recent 10th-anniversary screening in Los Angeles of his police comedy “Hot Fuzz” (which boasted a Q&A moderated by “Get Out” director Jordan Peele). “That’s my hometown in ‘Hot Fuzz,’ I’ll never get over how trippy it is sitting in Hollywood watching my hometown,” Wright said. “Because that’s how I started, sitting in quiet, rural Somerset, watching Hollywood movies on the big screen, and cut to 2017 and I’m in Hollywood watching my hometown on the big screen. And I think that is something, that twist of irony is probably my proudest achievement.”

Wright isn’t certain what his next film will be. He has adaptations of Neil Gaiman’s book “Fortunately, the Milk” and Andrew A. Smith’s novel “Grasshopper Jungle” in development as well as ideas for original projects. There have also been offers for what Wright calls “bigger, sillier things” as well.

popular saint

defining role religion plays for many Russians a quarter-century after the collapse of the officially atheist Soviet Union.

The relics, on loan from Italy, will be moved to St. Petersburg later this month.

Prince Harry once ‘wanted out’ of Britain’s royal family

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry says he once “wanted out” of the British royal family.

In an interview published in the Mail on Sunday, the prince said the time he spent in the army was “the best escape I’ve ever had” and that he thought about giving up his title.

He said: “I felt I wanted out, but then decided to stay in and work out a role for myself.”

Harry is fifth in line to the throne.

The comments followed an interview published in Newsweek in which he said he doubted anyone in the royal family wanted to be king or queen.

He said his family “will carry out our duties at the right time” and that they’re “not doing this for ourselves, but for the greater good of the people.”

'Transformers: The Last Knight' debuts to a franchise low

NEW YORK (AP)—The hulking machines of "Transformers" are no longer box-office behemoths in North America. But they're still big in China.

Michael Bay's "Transformers: The Last Knight," the fifth installment in the Hasbro series, scored a franchise-low domestic debut with an estimated \$43.5 million in ticket sales over the weekend and a five-day total of \$69.1 million since opening Wednesday. All previous "Transformers" sequels opened with \$97 million-plus.

But Paramount Pictures' "The Last Knight," the second "Transformers" movie to star Mark Wahlberg, still showed its might overseas. It took in \$196.2 million internationally, including an impressive \$123.4 million in China.

Future business will tell whether those grosses are enough to cover a hugely expensive movie: \$217 million to make, plus nearly as much



AP
This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Optimus Prime in a scene from, "Transformers: The Last Knight."

to market. Studios reap a smaller percentage of ticket sales from Chinese theaters. And reviews—though never much of a factor in "Transformers" land—were worse for "The Last Knight" than the earlier

films. Audiences gave this one a B-plus CinemaScore.

Yet "Transformers" has been increasingly skewing international. The previous film, 2014's "Age of Extinction," made \$858.6 million of its \$1.1

billion global haul abroad.

"Transformers" is built for a global audience," said Kyle Davies, president of distribution for Paramount. "You really have to consider how we did in the overall and it was really

strong overseas and in China. That's how we treat 'Transformers': It's a global property. So we're hopeful that we're going to get to a good place."

"Wonder Woman" and "Cars 3" tied for second place, both with \$25.2 million. Nearly a month after opening, Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" continues to be a major draw. In four weeks, it has surpassed \$300 million domestically. And at \$652.9 million globally, it's the highest grossing film directed by a woman, not accounting for inflation.

In limited release Kumail Nanjiani's acclaimed romantic

comedy "The Big Sick" landed the best per-screen average of the year. It opened in five theaters, grossing an average of \$87,000 from each. Amazon plunked down \$12 million for the Judd Apatow-produced Sundance Film Festival hit. Lionsgate is handling the theatrical release.

Sofia Coppola's "The Beguiled" wasn't far behind. In four theaters, it earned a per-screen average of \$60,136. The Focus Features release, starring Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst and Colin Farrell, is a remake of Don Siegel's 1972 Civil War-era gothic thriller about a wounded Union soldier taken in by a Southern all-girls school. At the Cannes Film Festival last month, Coppola won best director, becoming only the second woman to do so.

Both "The Big Sick" and "The Beguiled" expand nationwide in the coming weeks.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Lauren Hutton to be honored at Maine film festival

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)—Lauren Hutton is going to be this year's honoree at the 20th annual Maine International Film Festival. The 73-year-old actress, model and producer will be awarded the Mid-Life Achievement Award next month in Waterville, Maine. Festival programmer Ken Eisen told the Morning Sentinel that Hutton was part of what he described as a golden age of American filmmaking in the 1970s and that she broke the rules for aging by modeling nude at age 61. She'll receive the award July 20 at the Waterville Opera House where her movie "American

Gigolo," also starring Richard Gere, will be shown.

John Legend: Singer, songwriter, spelling bee champ

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP)—John Legend's work has won Grammys, an Oscar and a Tony, but years before achieving global fame, the Legend-to-be took home another prize: spelling bee champ. A 1989 story in The Springfield News-Sun proclaimed, "Product of home teaching wins bee." The newspaper noted the future R&B singer's sharp attire, his steady gaze and crisp enunciation, saying the 10-year-old Legend "came to win ... and win he did." Legend, born John Roger Stephens in

Springfield in 1978, credited his mother, Phyllis Stephens, and a tutor with helping him study for the contest. He and his siblings were home schooled. The newspaper says he took a no-nonsense approach, not cracking a smile during the competition until his tutor cried out with joy when he correctly spelled the winning word: "prejudice."

Trumps attend wedding of treasury secretary and actress

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump were among the guests as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin married a Scottish actress. Mnuchin exchanged

vows Saturday night with Louise Linton at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington. Mrs. Trump wore a pink blush dress and the president was in a tux. Vice President Mike Pence also attended. The 54-year-old Mnuchin worked for the Goldman Sachs investment firm for nearly two decades before founding a hedge fund. He also ran a company that invested in Hollywood movies and was finance chairman of Trump's presidential campaign. The 36-year-old Linton has appeared in movies and TV shows. Mnuchin also produced movies before joining the government. It's Mnuchin's third marriage and the second for Linton.

Widower finds companionship, but isn't ready for romance

DEAR ABBY: My wife died of cancer four years ago. She was my best friend, and the pain of losing her was more than I could cope with. I was in a fog for about two years, just going through the motions. Eventually the fear of spending the next 20 to 30 years alone drove me to try internet dating. I met some nice women and some very strange ones, but nothing came of it.

Then a year ago, an old friend introduced me to "Elaine." We hit it off immediately. We share the same interests and offbeat sense of humor, and I have grown fond of her. She's intelligent, kind and easy on the eyes. Our grown kids get along very well.

Our mutual friend told me that Elaine said she loves me and would be thrilled if I proposed—I guess to encourage me to the next level. My problem is, I'm still in love with my late wife.

If Elaine one day tells me she loves me, how do I respond without hurting her feelings or making her withdraw? I can see myself loving her in the future, but I am still silently mourning my wife. I don't want to chase Elaine away, so please tell me what to do.

NEW YORK WIDOWER

DEAR WIDOWER: You and Elaine appear to have a communication problem. You are both adults. If she has fallen in love with you, you shouldn't have to hear it from a mutual friend.

You owe it to her to have a frank talk with her because she

needs to know that you don't intend to remarry until you are over the loss of your late wife. She may decide to stick it out and wait or, as you say, decide to move on. But at least she'll know what she's dealing with.

It might also be a good idea for you to consult a grief therapist. Because if you do, it may make it easier for you to move forward with your life.

DEAR ABBY: Our friend's adult children invited us to a birthday party they were throwing for their parent at a restaurant. As we were ordering, the server asked if the checks would be separate or couples. (This was our first clue that we were expected to pay for our dinner.) For us, it was no problem, but an elderly couple had a long discussion about how they would pay.

When inviting guests to a party, is it proper to expect them to pay for their dinner? And if so, how should it be phrased in the invitation? If no mention is made, how would one inquire as to how the bill is handled?

This has never come up before. Hosts (including us) have always picked up the tab.

CAUGHT OFF GUARD IN OHIO

DEAR CAUGHT OFF GUARD: How embarrassing for that older couple, not to mention your friend.

Unless it is discussed or agreed upon beforehand,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a host is expected to pick up the check. (That's what "host" means.) If guests will be expected to pay for their own drinks (or meals), then the occasion is a "no host" gathering. That the guests were expected to pay for their own meal should not have been announced at the last minute; it should have been mentioned when the invitation was issued.

As to how to ask who will be paying when you are invited out, please know that asking that question isn't rude—particularly in light of what you experienced.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



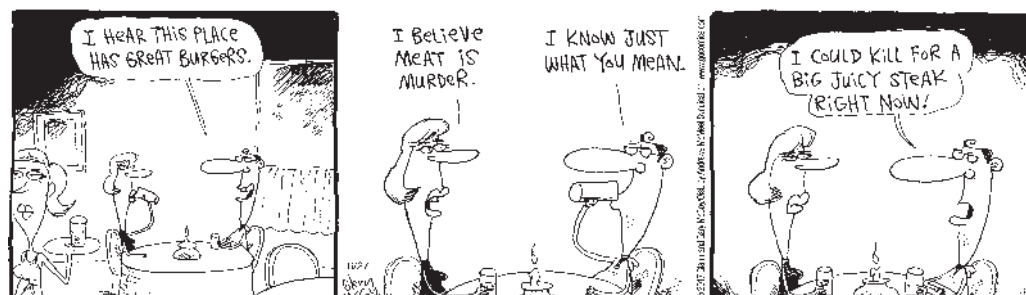
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Oxen's burden
5 Catchall abbr.
9 Perch
12 Greek vowel
13 Scent
14 "Yoo—!"
15 "Just kidding!"
17 Possess
18 Cracker spread
19 Give an address
21 Bishop's head-dress
24 Teensy bit
25 Apple tablet
26 Asleep
30 Computer key
31 Drive away
32 General Mills cereal
33 Almost
35 Takeout order?

DOWN

1 Brooch
2 Privy
3 Mel of
4 Bent out of shape
5 Castle
6 Between jobs
7 Scale
8 Waterford product
9 Cobbler
10 Corn Belt state
11 Honky-
16 Corn spike
20 "Wham!"
21 Carriage
22 —
23 With diplo-macy
24 Suit to —
26 Astronaut Arm-strong
27 Choose
28 "Dressed to —"
29 Former mates
31 Judge's decisions
34 Proof letters
35 Fingers and toes
37 Wilde-beest
38 Totals
39 Operatic solo
40 Luminary
41 Unsightly
44 "Alley —"
45 Parcel of land
46 Italian "three"
47 Ever-green tree

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	T	I	M	P	G	J	A	V	A
H	E	S	A	U	R	I	U	S	E	D
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	R
S	P	E	E	D	P	U	G	S		
R	O	L	L	T	I	M	E	O	F	F
S	V	G	O	T	M	E	G	U	I	
H	O	-	I	D	A	Y	B	I	R	D
I	S	I	S	J	E	L	L	O		
S	V	F	I	T	E	O	I	I		
H	I	F	I	F	U	R	L	O	U	G
A	N	T	E	O	N	E	L	I	N	E
M	E	S	S	H	O	O	I	E	S	

Yesterday's answer 6-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Westwick, 30; Drake Bell, 31; Tobey Maguire, 42; J.J. Abrams, 51.

Happy Birthday: Express your thoughts and make alterations to the way you live your life. Cut corners and enforce moderation to avoid overspending, taking on too much and excessive behavior. Personal problems will test your patience. Be prepared to make changes in order to deal with situations involving your position, your parents or your relationship with someone you love. Your numbers are 2, 12, 21, 28, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Network, travel, socialize and you will discover information that will help you get ahead. Listen to suggestions and research any offer thoroughly before you decide to make a move. The help you receive will bring unusual results. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your insight, not your emotions, to decipher what's going on in your personal life. Don't make assumptions when you should be looking at what's actually happening and acting accordingly. Do your best to keep the peace. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be attracted to a position that appears to be exactly what you want, but take a closer look and you'll discover that the vast majority of what you are required to do will not be as exciting as you believe. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Voice your opinion and say "no" if you don't like what's being offered. Stand up for your

rights and make suggestions you feel will benefit everyone involved. If you want to excel, be a spokesperson, not a follower. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A business trip or attending a function that will help you make a decision about your future will be met with an emotional response from someone who is surprised by your considerations. Listening attentively may change your perspective. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look out for yourself and don't be afraid to say "no" to someone putting emotional pressure on you to do something that doesn't feel right. Take control and call the shots, and you will get better results. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be faced with opposition. Look for ways to avoid overspending or situations that are spinning out of control due to a lack of understanding and an inability to compromise. Give and take will be necessary. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Attend a special event or travel to a place you've never been before, but don't overspend or neglect to have proper documentation if you want to avoid setbacks. Situations will escalate quickly if you oppose authority. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do the unexpected and impress the people you encounter today. Your heartfelt way of expressing yourself will encourage others to trust you. If you live up to your promises, everything will be fine. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Home improvement projects or changing your routine will give you a boost. The personal changes you make will encourage you to spend more time with friends, children or your lover. Time is precious, and how you spend it counts. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Deal with your peers openly and honestly. Your interest and concern in what others are up to will add to your popularity. Getting involved in a community event will help bring about positive changes. New prospects will arise. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Work with your peers and you will find it easier to get your way. An opportunity will develop if you participate in a networking event. Work diligently to turn your plans into a reality. ★★

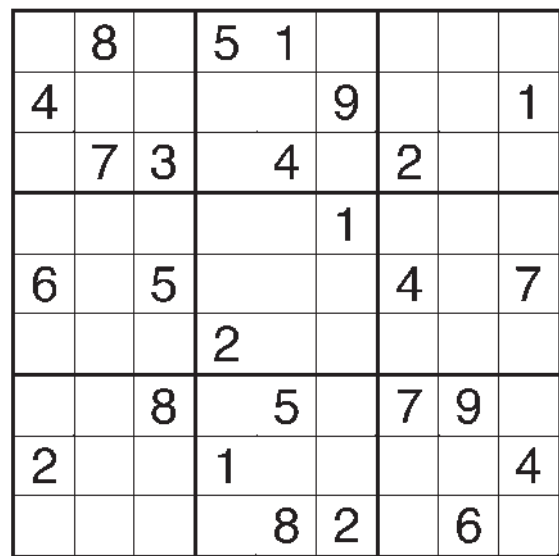
Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, articulate and outspoken. You are imaginative and popular.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

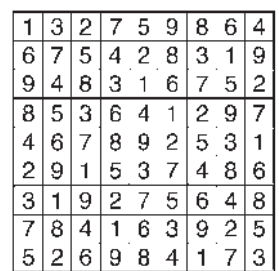


Difficulty Level ★★

6/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/3

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A TIME TO RENEW

Solution: 6 letters

P P S S A P S U B Y G R E N E
A I E A G R E E M E N T S G G
S H H I N S U R A N C E A U D
S S T S A T O A T H O G A P E
P D O E R A E E T H T R S L L
O N L T A E L C S R A L C A P
R E C T I P B A O N A X A T W
T I O L L E P M T N D T T E O
H R N E C R S E E N O S S H
O F T M A C E A E M E M O S S
U A R E R I I T H U I R Y U R
G I A N D R X S Q C P N L B L
H T C T E E S E U D R I D U O
T H T T I M R E P M A U H L A
S P I R I T T N E M Y A P C N

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6/27

Agreement, Bus Pass, Chip, Clothes, Club, Contract, Dues, Economy, Energy, Extend, Faith, Friendship, Guarantee, Health, Insurance, Lease, Loan, Mail, Membership, Mind, Mortgage, Music, Oath, Passport, Payment, Permit, Plates, Pledge, Purchase, Rail Card, Rental, Repeat, Request, Restart, Settlement, Shoes, Show, Soul, Spirit, Tags, Thoughts

Yesterday's Answer: Alleluia

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 50, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Media Adell
Saipan Tribune

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, part-time (3)
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Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on July 03, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
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LSG SKY CHEFS is looking to hire qualified U.S. workers for the following positions:

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- Three to four years of professional and managerial experience in hotel operational activities; airport operational activities; or airline catering activities; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the preferable knowledge, abilities and skills.
- Have knowledge of business practices and procedures;
- Knowledge of market trends in support adjacent markets.
- Must be proficient in the use of the English language (written and oral)
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
- Good communication skills with acceptable telephone manner.
- Good organizational skills.
- Able to make independent, well thought out decisions.
- Must be a US Citizen with US Passport;
- Must be dependable and flexible.

Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskycheffs.com. Deadline for submission is Friday, June 30, 2017.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Suite 201, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe
P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950

Associate Attorney

Job Duties: at the direction of partners or senior attorneys, attend court hearings and trials and argue on behalf of clients in all of the courts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, advise clients on, and handle, transactions (in particular, due diligence and closing for real estate transactions), corporate legal processes (e.g., incorporation, licensing/permitting, zoning), and litigation cases, supervise paralegals and other office staffs (including accounting and secretarial staff); interpret laws, rulings and regulations, and identify implications for cases handled by the office for review by partners or senior attorneys; conduct and defend depositions, draft legal documents (e.g., transaction agreements and court papers including motions, memorandum of law, and briefs) for review by partners or senior attorneys; and, perform duties related to the above as to specific assignments required by partners or senior attorneys.

Job Site: Saipan

Applicants must be licensed to practice law in the CNMI in the private sector. Interested applicants should report or send resumes to us. Our office is located at Suite 201, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950, and our email is cnmi@pacificlawyers.law.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY



INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB NO.: ITB 17-JUDICIARY-06

SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY JUNE 27, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW 5 DOOR ALL WHEEL DRIVE UTILITY VEHICLE FOR JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE”

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
Judiciary Procurement Officer/Budget and Finance Director

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. New Business
 - A. Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
 - a. The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
 - b. Initial Gaming Facility (IGF)
 - c. Community Benefit Fund
 - d. Implementation Schedules
 - e. Casino License Fee
 - B. Pocket Change Draw Proposal
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.



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- At times may need to be available to work on weekends or after hours.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, no later than June 30th, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: m.marron@dandq-international.com

The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

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Dodgers beat Rockies, extend streak to 10 games



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

The Los Angeles Dodgers found a new way to extend their winning streak to 10 games, scoring five runs on four wild pitches to go along with two more homers from rookie sensation Cody Bellinger in rallying past the Colorado Rockies 12-6 in Major League Baseball on Sunday.

Bellinger now has 24 home runs, helping the Dodgers stretch their longest string since they won 10 straight in August 2013. Colorado lost its season-worst fifth in a row.

Rockies reliever Adam Ottavino (1-2) threw four wild pitches in the late innings, all of them scoring at least one run.

Pedro Baez (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win and Kenley Jansen got five outs for his 17th save. Jansen also walked his first batter of the season after striking out 51 in a dominant year.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger, right, celebrates with Justin Turner after a two-run home run against the Colorado Rockies during the third inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Scott Feldman (6-5) pitched seven innings. He allowed both runs on Michael Taylor's 11th homer.

Roark (6-5) gave up six runs over six innings.

Orioles 8, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Joey Rickard hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning, sending Baltimore to the road win.

Caleb Joseph, Trey Mancini and Jonathan Schoop homered for the Orioles.

It was 5-all when Joseph opened the ninth with his third hit, a single off Alex Colome (1-3). Rickard put the Orioles ahead, Schoop was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and Adam Jones added a sacrifice fly.

Brad Brach (2-1) earned the win with two innings of shut-out relief.

Athletics 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Sonny Gray pitched seven effective innings for Oakland, and Adam Rosales and Matt Joyce hit back-to-back homers in the ninth.

Gray (3-3) picked up his first win since May 24. Rosales and Joyce broke it open with their drives against David Robertson and Chris Beck to start the ninth, and Oakland completed the three-game sweep after getting dominated by Derek Holland.

Oakland grabbed a 3-2 lead in the eighth on RBI singles by Khris Davis and Yonder Alonso against Tommy Kahnle (0-2) and Robertson.

Santiago Casilla gave up a leadoff homer to Melky Cabrera in the ninth but earned his 13th save.

Mets 8, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Rene Rivera homered twice and Rafael Montero pitched into the sixth inning in a spot start as the Mets finished off the series sweep.

Curtis Granderson and Jay Bruce also connected for New York, which had lost four straight and seven of eight coming into the series. Granderson went 2 for 3 with three walks.

San Francisco has lost five straight and 12 of 13. Matt Moore (3-8) was charged with five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Rivera hit a two-run homer in the second and a solo drive in the fourth. Montero (1-4) allowed one run and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Rangers 7, Yankees 6

In New York, Texas' South Korean slugger Shin-Soo Choo homered off Michael Pineda, so did Adrian Beltre and Drew Robinson, helping the Rangers hold on for this road win.

Choo hit a three-run homer in the second. Robinson's solo shot was his first major league hit and put Texas up 7-0 in the fourth inning. The Rangers improved to 11-5 over their past 16 games.

After homers by Gary Sanchez and Ronald Torreyes helped get the Yankees within a run, Keone Kela worked around Chase Headley's leadoff double for a scoreless eighth, and Matt Bush struck out Sanchez with a runner aboard to cap his ninth save.

New York has lost 10 of 12 since reaching a season-high 15 games over .500. Pineda (7-4) gave up seven runs in four innings.

Nick Martinez (3-3) gave up four runs in five innings, including a three-run shot by Sanchez.

Diamondbacks 2, Phillies 1, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Daniel Descalso lined a run-scoring single in the 11th inning, ensuring the Diamondbacks extended the best start in franchise history.

Paul Goldschmidt, who had a run-scoring single in the fourth inning, singled against Edubray Ramos (0-7) in the 11th and Chris Owings walked after fouling off several pitches. Descalso lined a ball through the right side and Goldschmidt scored just ahead of the throw. Arizona has won 11 of 13 and is 48-28 overall.

T.J. McFarland (4-1) worked around a walk in the 11th for the Diamondbacks.

Arizona had a runner on in the ninth, but Phillies center fielder Odubel Herrera made a leaping catch on Descalso's drive to the wall to end the inning.

Cardinals 8, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Randal Grichuk homered in his return to the majors and Yadier Molina had three hits as St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Sent to the minors May 29 after struggling with consistency, Grichuk had two hits — including his solo homer in the sixth inning — and scored twice. Molina, who had missed the previous two games after being hit by a foul tip on the knee, had three hits, scored three runs and drove in a run.

The Cardinals scored four runs in the seventh to break open a tie game. Molina's RBI single off Juan Nicasio (1-4) made it 5-4 and rookie Paul DeJong's two-run single gave St. Louis an 8-4 lead.

Trevor Rosenthal (2-3) earned the win in relief.

Twins 4, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Ervin Santana struck out seven in six innings and Jason Castro drove in three runs as the Twins swept the Indians.

Santana (10-4) allowed nine hits, but Cleveland's lineup struggled again. The Indians were shut out twice, went 1 for 23 with runners in scoring position and stranded 30 base-runners in the weekend series.

It was one sweet stay in Cleveland for the Twins, who were swept in a four-game set against the Indians at Target Field last weekend. Minnesota moved a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the division lead.

Josh Tomlin (4-9) allowed four runs in 5 2/3 innings for

Cleveland, which was coming off a 7-1 road trip.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Blue Jays closer Roberto Osuna struck out three in a scoreless ninth inning a day after saying he was dealing with anxiety issues.

Jose Bautista homered for Toronto and drove in a season-high four runs. Francisco Liriano (4-3) earned his 100th career victory.

Osuna didn't pitch in a save situation on Friday night, and the Blue Jays' bullpen let a game get away. On Saturday, the 22-year-old reliever said he was out of sorts mentally and feeling anxious.

Osuna returned to the mound in a non-save spot and gave up an infield single while getting the last three outs.

Jorge Bonifacio homered for the Royals. Scott Alexander (0-2) got the loss.

Marlins 4, Cubs 2

In Miami, the Cubs wasted a fine pitching performance by Mike Montgomery, stranding 11 runners and allowing three unearned runs.

Edinson Volquez (4-8) gave up five hits and five walks in five innings, but he stranded eight runners and departed with a 3-2 lead.

Miami's Ichiro Suzuki, 43, became the oldest player to start in center field since at least 1900, surpassing Rickey Henderson. Suzuki batted leadoff for the first time this year and went 0 for 4, dropping his average to .200.

Giancarlo Stanton hit his 20th homer for Miami, and A.J. Ramos got four outs for his 12th save.

Montgomery (1-4), making his fourth start of the year, allowed three runs, none earned,

in six innings.

Brewers 7, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Travis Shaw became the first player to reach SunTrust Park's right-field roof, belting a long two-run homer for the Brewers.

Zach Davies (8-4) pitched seven innings of four-hit ball for Milwaukee, bouncing back nicely from his worst start of the season. Keon Broxton added three hits and three RBIs as the NL Central-leading Brewers opened a 1 1/2-game lead over the Cubs.

Atlanta right-hander Julio Teheran (6-6) allowed seven runs and seven hits in three-plus innings.

Astros 8, Mariners 2

In Seattle, George Springer, Yuli Gurriel and Evan Gattis homered as the Astros wrapped up another winning road trip.

Houston improved to a major league-best 29-9 on the road. It also owns the top record in baseball at 52-25.

Four relievers combined to shut out the Mariners on three hits for seven innings, with Michael Feliz (3-1) getting the win.

Seattle left-hander Ariel Miranda (6-4) allowed four runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings.

Angels 4, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Parker Bridwell pitched 6 2/3 innings and the Angels scored three runs after their challenge overturned an inning-ending double play in the second.

Kaleb Cowart drove in two runs for Los Angeles, which won two of three against the Red Sox for its fifth series win in the last six.

Doug Fister (0-1) lost his Red Sox debut, giving up three

runs and seven hits in six-plus innings. He was signed by Boston on Friday after being released by the Angels.

Mitch Moreland and Jackie Bradley Jr. homered for the Red Sox, who lost their second straight at Fenway Park after winning 10 of the previous 12.

Bridwell (2-0) gave up two runs and seven hits. Yusmeiro Petit pitched two scoreless innings for his first save.

Tigers 7, Padres 5

In San Diego, Mikel Mahtook drove in three runs, including a tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth inning, as the Tigers snapped an eight-game losing streak.

After Detroit twice erased deficits earlier in the game, Mahtook sent an opposite-field single into right against Brandon Maurer (0-4) that scored Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton.

Bruce Rondon (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth to earn the victory. Justin Wilson retired the side in the ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Reds 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Scooter Gennett homered and the Reds scored five times in the first inning off Tanner Roark.

The Reds won for just the second time in 15 games. Gennett's four hits were his most since he got five while becoming the 17th major league player to homer four times in a game on June 6.

Gennett's solo shot in the second was his 11th homer of the season. The second baseman also threw out Brian Goodwin at the plate on a fifth-inning relay, preventing Bryce Harper from recording an RBI on a three-hit day.

Westbrook set to learn if his historic season was an MVP one



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A year ago, uncertainty surrounded Russell Westbrook.

Kevin Durant stunned the league by leaving Oklahoma City for rival Golden State in free agency. The four-time scoring champion and former MVP had been the central piece in making the Thunder one of the league's elite teams since the franchise's move to Oklahoma City in 2008.

Westbrook had played his entire NBA career alongside Durant, so questions about how Westbrook would respond immediately cropped up.

He defiantly answered them with memorable performances.

Westbrook became the first player since Oscar Robertson in 1961-62 to average a triple-double for a season and won his second scoring title. He broke Robertson's single-season record with 42 triple-doubles and led the Thunder to the playoffs. Now, he will join Houston's James Harden and San Antonio's Kawhi Leonard as finalists for the league's MVP award. The winner will be announced Monday at the inaugural NBA Awards show.

Westbrook gained satisfaction from the team's success, which largely was fueled by his personal dominance.

"With everything happening last summer, people counted us out," he said the day after Oklahoma City's season ended. "They weren't sure how many games we were going to win or how far we were going to go or whatever, but I think the group of guys, we never let



AP
In this April 23, 2017 file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots between Houston Rockets guard Patrick Beverley, rear, and guard James Harden, right, in the fourth quarter of Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City.

that sink in our building. We stuck together, and that's the thing I'm most proud about."

Westbrook wasn't just stat stuffing, either. The Thunder went 33-9 when he had a triple-double and 14-26 when he didn't. He seemingly gained energy as the season progressed and was statistically better after the All-Star break than before. As for those late-game situations, he led the league with 10 points per game in the fourth quarter and was one of the most dynamic closers in the league.

Westbrook topped Robertson's single-season, triple-

double record on April 9 in Denver. His 36-foot game-winning dagger put the final touch on a 50-point, 16-rebound, 10-assist performance that eliminated the Nuggets from playoff contention.

Robertson himself showed up to the Thunder's regular-season finale and endorsed Westbrook for the MVP award.

"What he has done has been historic in nature," Robertson told the crowd that night. "He's played with passion and pride and ability. It's just outstanding what he has done and the way he did it."

Durant might be the least

surprised player in the league. Westbrook was dominant while Durant was out with a foot injury during the 2014-15 season and claimed his first scoring title, but it wasn't clear if he could do it all—score, dominate the boards, consistently feed his teammates and come through in big moments—for an entire season.

Turns out, he could.

In the second game of the season, he had 51 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists in a victory over Phoenix, the first 50-point triple-double since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did it in 1975. On March 27, he had 13

points in a 3-minute barrage to rally the Thunder past Dallas. Two days later in Orlando, he scored 57 points and posted the most points ever in a triple-double. He hit a deep 3-pointer to force overtime, and eventually helped the Thunder win. In one of his most memorable games, he scored 47 points in a loss to Durant's Warriors.

Harden and Leonard also had MVP-caliber seasons:

James Harden, Houston

As stunning as Westbrook's triple-double binge was this season, Harden's was impressive, too.

He posted 22 triple-doubles and helped the Rockets finish with the league's third-best record. Harden, known primarily as a scorer throughout his career, shifted from shooting guard to point guard and was nearly unstoppable in coach Mike D'Antoni's fast-paced offense.

Harden led the league with 11.2 assists per game and finished second with 29.1 points per contest. In perhaps his best performance, he had 53 points, 16 rebounds and 17 assists against the New York Knicks on New Year's Eve.

Kawhi Leonard, San Antonio

Leonard is the two-time reigning Defensive Player of the Year, and he's up for the honor again.

Yet, it was the 6-foot-7 forward's offensive improvement that put him in the mix for the MVP award. He averaged 25.5 points this season after averaging 21.2 the previous year.

Leonard helped the Spurs finish with the league's second-best record. He seemed to play as the stage got bigger.

He opened the season with a career-high 35 points in a blowout win over the Warriors. Leonard upped that career high with 41 points in a win over Cleveland on Jan. 21, and he dropped 39 points in a victory over Houston on March 6.

Magic sees Lonzo as 1 piece in Lakers' grand rebuilding plan

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Magic Johnson pointed a long index finger at the wall of the Los Angeles Lakers' training complex, where the 16-time NBA champions' nine retired numbers hang over the practice court.

"I'm going to put a little pressure on you right now," Johnson said to Lonzo Ball. "You look to your right, there's some jerseys hanging on that wall. We expect a Ball jersey hanging up there one day, all right? Good."

Somebody not wearing Big Baller Brand sneakers might be a bit intimidated by Magic's bold pronouncements. After all, the Lakers' president of basketball operations immediately dubbed his 19-year-old point guard "the new face of the Lakers, the guy who I think will lead us back to where we want to get to."

But after a short lifetime

spent preparing for this moment, Ball already knows exactly what's expected from a superstar on his favorite team.

"I'm happy to be home, and I'm ready to get to work," Ball said as he formally joined the Lakers on Friday after getting chosen with the No. 2 overall pick.

Ball is facing sky-high expectations, but he's also just one part of Johnson's plan to transform the Lakers into a championship contender after the worst four-season stretch in franchise history.

Magic made his intentions known a few days before the draft when he traded D'Angelo Russell to Brooklyn, giving up on the No. 2 pick in the 2015 draft after just two mostly promising seasons. Magic made the deal partly to clear the way for Ball, whose passing talent and leadership enraptured the Lakers' Hall of

Fame point guard in a way that Russell never did.

"I'm going to do what it takes to get the right players in here with the right mindset," Johnson said. "D'Angelo is an excellent player. He has the talent to be an All-Star. We want to thank him for what he did for us, but what I needed was a leader. I needed somebody also that can make the other players better, and also that players want to play with."

Johnson also echoed general manager Rob Pelinka's comments one day earlier about the Lakers' long-term plans when he cited 2018 salary cap relief as the second reason for trading Russell.

The Lakers got rid of the final three seasons of center Timofey Mozgov's \$64 million contract in the deal, acquiring mobile center Brook Lopez - who has one year

left on his deal—and the 27th overall pick used to get Utah forward Kyle Kuzma.

With Mozgov's contract off the books and additional moves planned in the ensuing months, Johnson and Pelinka intend to clear enough cap room for the Lakers to add two free agents on maximum contracts next summer. Paul George, LeBron James, Russell Westbrook, DeMarcus Cousins and other big-name veterans could be available—and Magic is indefatigably optimistic they'll be interested.

"When you have this much cap space, we're going to be major players next summer," Johnson said. "The tide has turned. People want to play here again. It's exciting times for the LA Lakers. I wouldn't have made that move if I didn't think I could use that money. Enough said."

Jim Buss and Mitch Kup-

chak had a similar plan several times in recent seasons, believing they could build another super-team around Kobe Bryant. They were repeatedly surprised and disappointed when free agents didn't line up to wear the Lakers' hallored gold uniforms, leaving Los Angeles to struggle to four consecutive losing seasons.

But Magic and Pelinka believe they will succeed where Buss and Kupchak failed, thanks to what they see as an intriguing young core headlined by Ball and wing Brandon Ingram, last season's No. 2 overall pick.

Pelinka also believes Magic himself is an irresistible asset.

"There's just a renewed energy around here," Pelinka said Thursday night. "With Earvin's vision and his persona, I think the organization is really taking on that positive joy that he seems to live

with every day. I think players around the NBA feel that as well and are going to be attracted to that energy here. With the leading teams in the league today, we felt like to be able to look them in the eye and challenge them, we need two superstar players to come here and join this platform and join our core group of great players that we now have."

But if the Lakers are disappointed in free agency again, they'll still have Ball - and his father, LaVar, who had promised for years that his son would end up with the Lakers.

Magic and LaVar appear to believe in Lonzo with equal fervor, if such a thing is possible.

"Just leave me one or two records, OK?" Magic told Lonzo with a grin. "Don't break all my records. I asked your grandfather, 'Just let him leave me one.'"

24th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A big group of runners heads out to the course during last Friday's 24th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run.



IT&E's Rose Soledad slows down as she is about to finish the race.



The third wave of runners leaves the starting line at Chamolinian Utt.



John Diego Masga nears completion of the seven-kilometer race.



Takeru Jim, center, poses with his boys U12 division top prize and DFS/T Galleria's Ben Babauta, right, and Marida Pensader.



Ronald Villafria, second left, age group winner in the 41 to 50 division, joins Ben Babauta, Marian Aldan-Pierce, and Marida Pensader for a group photo.



The last wave of runners makes its way out of Chamolinian Utt.



No. 1 overall finisher Kosuke Sato, center, is all smiles after getting his prize from DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, and race announcer Ben Babauta.



Dodgers beat
Rockies, extend
streak to 10
games

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Westbrook set
to learn if his
historic season
was an MVP one

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI recovers; Chinese-Taipei leads

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Senior All-Stars avenged their opening day loss to Guam, while Chinese-Taipei swept the first round of the elimination in the Junior League division as action in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament resumed yesterday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield.

After a two-day break, the CNMI Senior All-Stars returned to the field and was on target for an 11-3 victory over Guam, which downed the hosts, 5-3, last Friday during the tournament opener.



Shakobe Rangamar pitched for the Commonwealth and allowed only six hits and two earned runs. He also went 3-for-4 at bat and

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Carol earns two finals stints in Fiji

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The CNMI's Carol Lee made two finals appearances in the 2017 South Pacific Open Junior Championships last weekend at the Regional Tennis Centre Nadovu Park in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lee first played in the doubles finals with Singapore's Maxine Ng and they advanced to the title game after eliminating their first three opponents via straight sets. The CNM-Singapore pairing first downed Japan's Riko Ebina and Manami Ukita, 6-1, 6-2, and then topped Australia's Chiara Di Tommaso and France's Helena

Mohamed, 6-4, 6-3, to move into the semifinals.

In the Final Four, the No. 2 seed Lee and Ng were pitted against another Japanese pair in Ikumi Yamazaki and Hikaru Yoshikawa and the ranked pair also won after only two sets, 6-1, 6-3, to gain the finals berth at the lower half of the draw.

In the finale, it was a battle of the Top 2 seeds as No. 1 and siblings Patricia and Violet Apisah of Papua New Guinea also swept their way to the championship round with their last win coming against No. 3 Yuna Ohashi and Shiho Shibata, 6-2, 6-4. The PNG bet went on to keep their perfect record in

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee made it to the finals of the singles and doubles events of last week's Pacific Open Junior Championships held at the Regional Tennis Centre Nadovu Park in Lautoka, Fiji.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Chinese-Taipei pitcher hurling during the top of the second inning of their game against the CNMI Junior League All-Stars in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Saturday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield.

Thompsons take podium in Tagaman Triathlon

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Colin Thompson and his daughters Jinju and Jinie all made it to the podium during the awards ceremony for the relay races of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Jinju suited up for Team JWK and joined forces with biker Wynn Brillo and runner Kaden Church in ruling the mixed relay event. The trio combined for 2:25:40 to top their division and posted the best time in the entire relay field, which drew 14 teams.

Team JWK completed the 1.5-kilometer swim in the waters off Kanoa Resort and around the partially submerged World War II tanks, the 40K bike from Minatchom Atdao Pavilion to Banzai Cliff and back, and the 10K run from the pavilion to the Chamolinian Utt and back more than six minutes ahead of Team Worth-A-Tri. Colin was the swimmer for Team Worth-A-Tri and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Jinju, Jinie, and Colin Thompson pose with their medals after the awards ceremony for the Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday at Kanoa Resort.

Jojo Valencia and Dennis Bautista were the biker and runner, respectively, and clocked in at 2:31:51 to earn the first place finish in the men's division.

Colin's younger daughter Jinie and her Team Anonymous, on the other hand, were the runners-up in the mixed relay after submitting 2:42:12, which was the sixth fastest in the relay division. Jinie had Ernie Henson as swimmer and Li Zhao as runner.

Team Poolewinfry swimmer Leith Poole, biker Tina Goodwin, and runner Sarah Fryling rounded out the Top 3 after logging 3:09:42.

In the men's division, Team Islander Car Rental came in at second with its 2:37:52, while Team Ali'i was ranked third after recording 2:39:17. Lenosuki Suzuki was the swimmer for Team Islander Car Rental and was second out of the water overall (split times were unavailable at press time), beating the rest of the pro field and placing second

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